Workers Of The World, Unite!

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Detroit CIO Debates Labor Party Issue

——See Page 6——

80th CONGRESS RECORD SHOWS NEED FOR A LABOR PARTY NOW

Wall Street Backs Dutch In Java War

Loan of $553,000,000 To Help Colonial Depots

By Joseph Hansen

Wall Street is preparing to back the war of the Dutch imperialists against the Republic of Indonesia with a loan of $533,000,000. The negotiations are already "pretty far along," according to John J. McCloy, president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and member of the Wall Street group now acting as a Brain Trust for the Truman Administration.

When asked by a reporter on July 29 whether the proposed loan would not have the effect of financing the Dutch military action in the Far East, McCloy reluctantly admitted: "Well, it may, indirectly."

The plea of Indonesian President Soekarno for help from America in defending the beleaguered republic, was thus brutally brushed aside. The announcement of the proposed loan to the Dutch imperialists was Wall Street's way of answering that plea and showing precisely where its sympathies lie in the colonial struggle. It was at the same time Wall Street's way of answering the demand that American Lend-Lease arms now being used by the Dutch to murder the Indonesian freedom fighters be "recaptured."

For 10 days American and British diplomats succeeded in keeping the Dutch assault on Indonesia out of the United Nations, even getting the Indian government to postpone action a few days. The British government intimated it was negotiating with the Dutch to act as a "mediator" in the conflict. The role the British would play can be judged from an announcement of the Netherlands Government that it will agree to negotiate, provided the negotiations occur on Dutch terms.

These terms would include recognition of Dutch rule in Indonesia and an order to all the Indonesian forces to "cease fire" while Dutch troops continued operations. These terms would mean unconditional surrender by the Indonesians.

INDIA PROTESTS TO UN

Public pressure in India rose so high, however, that the Indian government on July 30 lodged a protest with the United Nations, accusing the Dutch of beginning large scale military operations without warning. On the same day, the Australian government filed a protest. However, in contrast to India, the Australians took a position that was formally neutral but in reality favorable to the Dutch since it calls for an order on both parties to cease fire and begin arbitration

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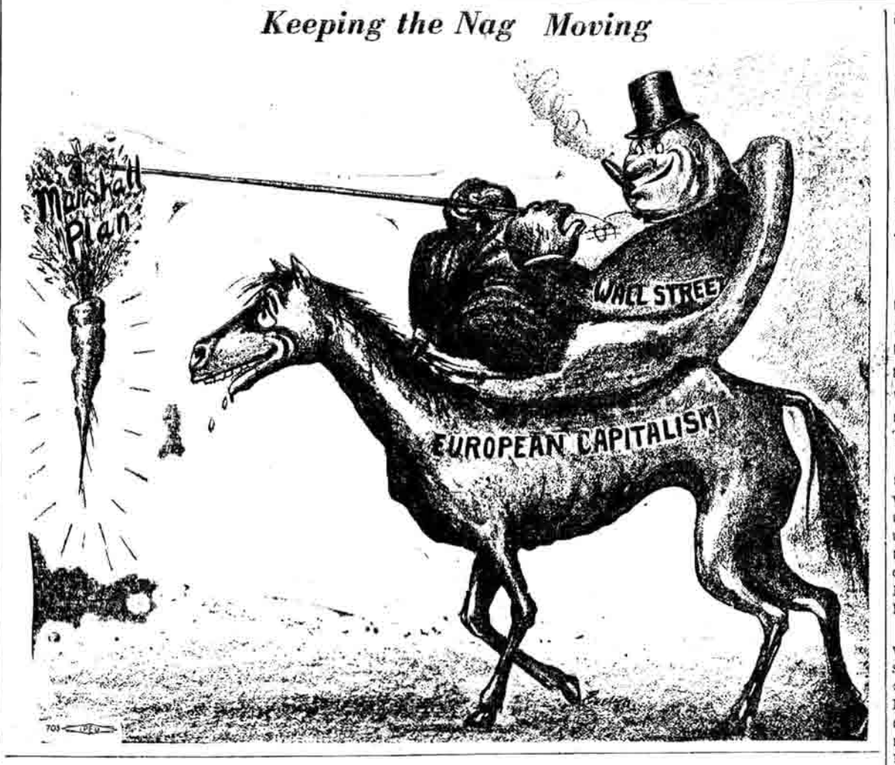
PCI Issues Call For Revolutionary Unity In France

PARIS, July 25 — *La Verite*, central organ of the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French Section of the Fourth International, carries this week an appeal for revolutionary unity adopted by the party's Central Committee at its recent session. The appeal is addressed to the left opposition developing in the Socialist and Stalinist parties, and to the Socialist Youth which has recently been expelled by the reformist party, as well as to unaffiliated revolutionary workers.

Calling attention to the recent strikes, in which important layers of workers broke through the class collaboration policy of the two old parties, as well as to the development of the Youth, the Trotskyist Central Committee calls for all these elements to join forces in building together the revolutionary mass party of the French working class. To such an effort, the appeal states, the PCI will contribute the energies of its hundreds of devoted militants tested in years of consistent revolutionary action, its program which is that of the Fourth International confirmed by the events and the fraternal support of the more than 30 sections affiliated to the Fourth International.

Keeping the Nag Moving



Taft Hartley Act Gets Major Test In Murray Strike

Union Seeks Clauses To Avoid Reprisals

DETROIT, July 30 — Seven thousand members of CIO United Automobile Workers Local 2 at the Murray Corporation are continuing their week-long strike in what is considered the first major national test arising out of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

The strike, which has the sanction of the International Union, was called on July 23 to enforce union demands for clauses in the union contract that would protect the union from damage suits and other reprisals under the Taft-Hartley Act and the state anti-labor laws.

Promptly following the Murray walkout, the Ford Motor Company started big lay-offs, claiming lack of supplies from Murray, biggest Ford parts producer. These layoffs coincided with the breakdown of negotiations between Ford and the UAW representatives for protective contract clauses similar to those demanded from the Murray Corporation.

The UAW International Executive Board this Saturday is to consider the request of the National Ford Conference, representing 108,000 Ford UAW members, for sanction of strike action. A strike date has been tentatively set for August 4.

The Murray workers demand two special contract clauses: (1) to free the union, its officers and any members from liability "in the event of any and all violations of the contract" except as specifically provided for in the contract; and (2) to guarantee the union freedom of speech to publicize its point of view on company property during periods of elections held on company property.

Republicans, Democrats Both Serve Wall Street

By the Editors

The American working people, the great majority of the population, are angry to the marrow of their bones. Their anger was aroused by the unmatched record of legislative reaction of the first session of the 80th Congress that adjourned July 26. Their wrath is more and more being distilled into a demand for an end to the delay in organizing a Labor Party.

FULL MEASURE

If ever the workers needed evidence of the strictly capitalist-class character of both the Democratic and Republican parties, the first session of the 80th Congress supplied it in fullest measure.

Most ominous is the fact that this session followed on the heels of the 79th Congress which labor leaders called the "most reactionary" in decades. It turned out that the "most reactionary" 79th Congress was only a curtain raiser.

A trend is clearly evident—a trend of mounting reaction. Bad as was the first session of the 80th Congress, the second session next January gives every indication of being still worse. Having passed the savage Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law in the first session, Wall Street's political hatchetmen will devote their next session to enforcing its most barbarous provisions and passing new laws to put still more "teeth" in this fascist-like Act.

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY

Wall Street can follow this political course against the manifest will of the people because it holds a complete monopoly on government. It can legislate as it pleases. It can speed up or slow down its anti-labor drive at will because labor does not have even one single political representative in Congress.

Labor today stands at the cross roads. There is no way to turn back the incipient trend toward fascism except by political action. If labor does not go forward and organize a Labor Party, then reaction, emboldened by labor's political passivity, will set out to put in power a fascist regime such as the Italian and German capitalists enjoyed.

Wall Street's anti-labor drive is part and parcel of its blueprint for world conquest. Labor can gain a decisive veto power over these mad plans for World War III, for atomic slaughter, only by organizing its own political forces and throwing its weight in the political arena squarely against Wall Street.

For two whole years since V-J Day, Wall Street has carried on an all-out political war against the labor movement. The **economic** aim of this political assault was to safeguard profits and drive down the standard of living of the masses.

GREATER THREATS AHEAD

But the future holds even greater threats to the security of the working people. The economy of America, controlled by an irresponsible clique of profiteers, is sliding with gathering speed into the abyss of depression.

Without a Labor Party organized on a nation-wide scale to battle these capitalist rulers, the drift deeper and deeper into the post-war depression will continue unchecked.

It is clear that all vital questions today are decided on the political field.

The organization of a Labor Party is not something that can be indefinitely postponed. Each day it is put off means greater political strength for Wall Street and increasing weakness for labor. In politics the most essential thing is time. That is why all those who try to continue postponing organization of the Labor Party play Wall Street's game.

The record of the first session of the 80th Congress, with its ominous portent for the future, should serve as a deadly warning to every worker. Further delay in the organization of a Labor Party cannot be afforded.

"A Job Well Done—For Wall Street"

See Page 4

Neglect Of Mines Adds 27 More To Death-Toll

Another mine tragedy last week snuffed out the lives of 27 mine workers at the old Ben Mine, in West Frankfort, Illinois, which is 40 miles from Centralia where 111 miners were murdered for profits on March 25. Once again the ruthless coal barons demonstrated that they consider mine workers "expendable," and place their profits far above lives.

An explosion on July 25 caused by gas accumulation ripped through Mine No. 8 of the Old Ben Corporation, second largest coal operator in Illinois. Twenty-six of the 246 men working in the mine were killed instantly. One died during the night from injuries. Many bodies were found badly mangled and burned, indicating that fire accompanied the blast. Rescue workers had to inch their way through 1½-foot air shafts running alongside the mine corridors, to bring out the bodies.

Four months ago the mine was condemned as "dangerous from an explosion point of view" by Federal inspectors. It was listed among the 48 "unsafe" Illinois mines closed for a brief period by Secretary of Interior Krug after the Centralia disaster.

The local mine safety committee several weeks ago objected to the company's practice of "rock dusting the mine while regular shifts were working." Miners know that excessive rock dust in the air hinders ventilation and inadequate ventilation causes explosive gas to accumulate. The protest notice was still posted in the wrecked mine when rescue squads dug the bodies out.

Despite the flagrant violation of safety regulations, despite the warning given four months ago by Federal inspectors, Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois, who visited the scene of the disaster, brazenly stated that he was satisfied that all safety regulations had been complied with at the mine and that the mine was regarded as a "model" in the heart of the southern Illinois coal fields. Thus does he whitewash the criminal responsibility of the greedy coal operators.

Some 7,000 miners felt otherwise. They stayed away from 12 mines in Franklin County, while federal, state and county "investigations" got under way.

Press Silent About Marshall Plan While Imperialists Grab for Ruhr

The Marshall Plan has temporarily dropped out of the main headlines in the press. The State Department, it seems, prefers as little publicity as possible on the squabble with France and Britain over the Ruhr, one of the big prizes the Wall Street imperialists hope to win through the Marshall Plan.

Washington has demanded that the British drop any talk of nationalizing the Ruhr coal industries and hand over de facto management of the area to America. They argue that British management of the Ruhr is inefficient.

Last week, for instance, a secret report of Robert Moses on the occupation of Germany was circulated in Washington despite the State Department announcement of its suppression. Moses' report declares that under the British "a decrease or collapse in coal production" is threatened. "Only centralization of authority and responsibility can bring order out of this mess. Industry cannot revive without a single board for policy and a single individual for execution."

Wall Street wants control over the naming of that key individual and the majority on the board.

As additional pressure on Britain, Wall Street has demanded an end to the 5-day work week won by the British coal miners. Such a short work week, according to the Wall Street bankers, makes Britain a bad credit risk. They have also demanded a general speed up of British labor.

In return for British concession, Washington will lend a sympathetic ear to the pleas of the British capitalists for more loans under the Marshall Plan.

The State Department's decision not to publicly announce the Anglo-American agreement to step up industrial production in Germany without prior consultation with Paris has temporarily assuaged the French capitalists. "It is well worth delaying such plans a few weeks and even slightly modifying them, American officials are known to believe, if French cooperation can thereby be obtained," reported the Washington correspondent of the **Christian Science Monitor.**

What the French are asking behind the curtains as compensation for their agreement and what Washington is promising them under the Marshall Plan is of course a top secret.

Another top secret is the undercover negotiations now going on between Washington and the Kremlin. That highly secret discussions are being held was revealed by Drew Pearson in his column of July 25. The subject is probably the Kremlin's price for another deal with Wall Street under the Marshall Plan.

Washington Big-Wigs Linked to War Graft

The conviction of former Representative Andrew J. May on war-bribe charges and revelations in the Hughes-Kaiser plane contract deals permits another glimpse into the most sordid saturnalia of greed in human history—the orgy of American capitalist profiteering and government corruption during World War II.

So far the disclosures in Washington during the past few weeks already involve a number of individuals high in positions of government responsibilities.

May, head of the House Military Affairs Committee during the war, was sentenced last week to eight months' imprisonment for taking $53,000 in bribes from munitions contractors.

Julius A. Krug, present Secretary of the Interior and former head of the War Production Board, was the recipient of lavish entertainment at the expense of war plane contractor Howard Hughes.

Even the head of the Senate War Investigating Committee, Senator Owen Brewster, was not loathe to accept chartered luxury plane trips at the expense of Hughes and is charged by the latter with acting in the interests of airlines magnate Juan Trippe, head of Pan-American Airways.

LIGHT SENTENCE

Many a pickpocket who stole only a watch or a few dollars has been given a tougher sentence than May, who used his government post to line his pockets in return for favors to the Garson brothers' munitions combine.

Federal Judge Schweinhaut gave May a light sentence after May's demagogue plea that he "never touched" liquor or tobacco and had been a Sunday School Superintendent, Bible Class teacher and faithful church member.

Schweinhaut is the former federal prosecutor who demanded 16-year sentences for the 18 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truck-drivers Local 544 defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Trial. The 18 Trotskyist leaders received sentences up to 16 months' imprisonment for daring to declare the Second Imperialist World War a war for profits.

BIG PARTIES

Testimony in the Hughes-Kaiser aircraft contracts scandal, involving a $40,000,000 contract for planes the Army says were never delivered, has disclosed that Krug, Elliott Roosevelt, Governor Wallgren of Washington and other high officials were wined and dined at big parties thrown by Hughes, who also handed out costly gifts of nylon stockings, etc. Pretty movie aspirants were hired to entertain at $125 per party.

A minor bit of testimony disclosed that present Postmaster General Hannegan, head of the Democratic National Committee, was the recipient of a little favor in the form of a bootleg shoe ration coupon that cost Hughes $10.

War profits investigations have been conducted mainly against independent capitalists like Hughes, Kaiser and the Garson brothers.

Nothing is being said about the big monopolies who made the most profits out of the war. Thus Henry J. Kaiser, in his testimony, complained with some justification that he was being "persecuted" while the worst war criminals like U. S. Steel and the other trusts are being protected and covered up.

NEGRO DEATH-CAMP INMATES SEND OUT DESPERATE PLEA

A desperate appeal for help from the terrorized Negro prisoners in Angiulla Camp near Brunswick, Georgia, where on July 11 eight were blasted to death and five seriously wounded by race-hating white prison guards, was smuggled out to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, reaching their New York national headquarters on July 24.

The letter reveals that the men have been threatened with death on the slightest provocation. The temper of the warden is such that the inmates feared violence and sudden death for no reason at all. "We are all really in danger down here and need your help at once," states the letter, painfully scrawled on sheets of crumpled paper.

Two weeks after eight of the Negro inmates were murdered in cold blood, W. G. Worthy, the white warden, inflamed with drink at the time of the slaughter, and the seven white guards who fired at the prisoners, were exonerated as "justified in their action" by an all-white Grand Jury of 23 in Glynn County, Brunswick. The killers were again placed in charge of the men they hated.

Redoubled terrorization and threats followed the whitewashing of these criminals. The letter states that the warden "still has the same job" and that "this man may kill all of us." It states that the prisoners are giving him no trouble at all, but that he remains in a vicious rage. "Why give him too much of a chance, he has killed eight already," the prisoners plead. "He knows we are all helpless . . . please send some one down here to look after us. . . ."

The wholesale slaying, in which sub-machine gun, shot-guns and rifles were used, followed a refusal by the prisoners to go into rattlesnake infested swamps without boots. They asked for a meeting with the warden in order to explain their objections but were refused. Returned to camp under the guns of 17 guards, they were lined up in the stockade. Reeling drunk, the warden threatened to "kill" and a few minutes later ordered his men to open fire. The white jury, accepting his excuse that the prisoners were "shot while attempting to escape," went so far as to praise him for "acting in order to maintain order."

Signs of the Times

An ANP dispatch from Dallas reports that for the first time in its history, the Jim Crow state convention of the AFL-Texas Federation of Labor has elected Freeman Everett, a Texas Negro labor leader, as vice-president of the state board.

Steel Price Hikes Will Boost High Living Costs Still Higher

The inflationary spiral has been given a powerful upward thrust by the action of big steel corporations who have hiked steel prices by $5 to $10 a ton and more. It makes absolutely certain that a new wave of price-boosts will follow not only in the countless industries directly using steel but also in the most remotely connected branches. For the country's entire price structure rests on the cost of such basic products of steel, coal and oil, all of which have now spurted sharply upwards.

WASHINGTON SILENT

Not a word has come from Washington, although Truman has repeatedly warned against the disastrous consequences of such price rises. Indeed this was one of the keynotes of his mid-year economic report. Edward G. Nourse, Chairman of the President's Economic Advisory Board, has announced that this board had "no comments on the steel price boosts." Truman himself even failed to comment on the broken pledge of Fairless, president of U. S. Steel, who had promised to wait at least a month or two, before deciding on the prices of steel.

The only thing that still remains in question is how rapidly all prices will rise from now on. Truman's economic advisors refuse to make any forecasts, confining themselves to an unofficially expressed hope that "the price wave will spread slowly," as a UP dispatch from Washington, July 30, reports.

CONTINUE TO GRAB

There are no grounds whatever to expect moderation from any section of the capitalist class. They will all continue as before to grab as much as they can while the grabbing is still good.

Under the former coal and steel prices and the former price structure as a whole, the cost of living has kept shooting upwards. The government figures released for last month show the consumer price index at a new high. Under the new price structure it will head higher and faster.

From the standpoint of future trends, this new development must aggravate the downward trend. On the basis of the previous price-structure, industry has been declining at a steady rate. The Federal Reserve Board production index which stood in April at 186, dropped in May to 185 and in June to 183. Another decline in July is already admitted. The new prices, which slash still more deeply into mass purchasing power, will act to accelerate this decline, paving the way for greater unemployment and the ultimate disaster.

The Elemental Urge To Socialism

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process: namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars.
—Leon Trotsky, 1940

By J. R. Johnson

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process. That is not mere politics. It is a philosophy, the answer of the workers' movement to the great problem at the center of all philosophy. What is the relation between thought and action, between the idea and reality? The book of Genesis, Aristotle and Plato, the Christian Fathers, Kant and Hegel, all grappled with this problem.

Marx it was, who took the most advanced philosophic thought of his day and tied it to the labor movement and the instinctive strivings of workers. To this day, people of education, even though calling themselves progressive, cannot stomach this . Yet this combination of the highest philosophical conclusions and instinctive mass strivings is the key to all modern problems (whether of thought or action) which man has to solve.

Take the question of imperialist war and democracy. Readers of **The Militant** and the literature of the Socialist Workers Party know that the revolutionary socialist attitude toward war has a long history. It was worked out by socialists half a century ago. In 1914 Lenin carried out immense labors to show exactly how imperialism came into being, why it was compelled to plunge periodically into suicidal war, why the imperialists themselves could never stop wars, why labor leaders support these wars, why the great body of the workers should not.

PROVED ITS FALSITY

With this, he developed Marx's criticism of parliamentary democracy, showed how profoundly false was the idea that imperialism went to war for the rights of free speech etc. Particularly he emphasized the need for the workers to oppose all manifestations of the war with revolutionary action, to denounce the hypocricies of democracy, for the colonial peoples to revolt for their independence, and for the workers in advanced countries to support those revolts. The whole together forms one of the most logical, comprehensive and dynamic philosophical conceptions of modern society. For Bolshevism is not mere politics, but is a philosophy of life and its politics flow from this philosophy .

Now many intellectuals, and a number of workers too, feel strongly attracted to these ideas as ideas. But, they say, the American workers are a hundred years away from all this. We have had two world wars. They have not shown in any way that the Bolshevik ideas have any reality in the United States.

They do not see because they do not know where to look. Who are the most degraded, oppressed people in the United States? The American Negroes, of course. Then begin with them. What do they think? If we could get a genuine Gallup poll of Negro thought we would find that the overwhelming majority feel instinctively but deeply that these world wars have not been fought for democracy and that the ideas of equality under parliamentary democracy is the greatest political fraud of modern times.

We will find also that they support wholeheartedly every colonial revolt and passionately wish that the colonial peoples drive British, Dutch, French and American imperialists into the sea. The proof of all this is written every week all over the Negro press. But the Negro masses, those who do not read the press, hold these beliefs far more strongly than the intellectuals and journalists do. Thus, their political ideas correspond to the most profound analysis and researches of Marxism.

This is not accidental. It is upon the Negroes that fall most heavily the burdens, the tyrannies, the miseries of capitalist society. They react **against.** Most often it is unconscious. But the more strongly they react against the society the more they are driven to formulate a program, even though in the old days they put its realization first in heaven and then in Africa, so distant seemed the possibility of freedom. The program is an aspiration, but its outlines are clear enough.

BEAR HEAVIEST BURDEN

Today, any number of Negroes want complete equality in every sphere. They are ready to fight in a war for such equality, for complete democracy. They are ready to support a colonial war against imperialism. They do not see how to do these things, they may vote Democratic or Republican, and very often will repeat all the rubbish about free enterprise and four freedoms which they hear from morning till night. But the would-be Marxist is utterly lost who does not understand that there is concentrated in them, not tomorrow or today, now, a passionate desire to rebuild society on Communist beginnings, in the South, in the North, in Africa, in Asia, and in fact, everywhere.

READY FOR BUSINESS

It is the unconscious expression of the historical process, and it is not so unconscious either. American Negroes have no doubt whatever that the most advanced social organization in the United States is the CIO. If the CIO took a strong political lead **and looked as if it were serious, as if it meant business,** the Negroes would pour out in their millions to support it to the end. For that they are ready now. Of this, the present writer has not the slightest doubt whatever. That is the historical process, self-developing by contradictions, the Negroes forced **forward** by the very **backwardness** of their situation in society.

Maybe, in a sense (oh, these sceptics!) that is true of Negroes. But it is not true of organized labor! Indeed? Let us begin again with the most socially degraded of the organized labor movement. Since 1943 the miners have been saying in every variety of language possible to them, that they too, in their own way, and according to their own experiences, think pretty much as the Negroes do about American society.

WHAT MINERS WERE SAYING

In 1943 against the capitalist state, the capitalist war, the mountains of capitalist propaganda and the capitalist democracy, they set up not so much their demands for a few dollars, but their union, as an expression of their denial of the values of this society. The miners did not say "We are for socialism, for the reconstruction of society on Communist beginnings." Millions of workers very rarely say such things. But what the miners were saying was this: "If your war was a war for the people, if there was equality of sacrifice, if we thought you meant that after the war there would be a new world, then we would not mind working for the same wages. We could tighten our belts. But we don't believe you at all. John L. Lewis says that when you say you can't pay, you are lying, and we believe him and not you. Therefore we shall strike and strike, and your war and your democracy can see for itself."

They have acted that way for four years. From many of them has come the bitter complaint: "Why should we always carry the ball?" It means, and I can substantiate this, that if the other labor organizations would only act as we do, we would show coal-operators and government exactly what we think.

SOCIAL REALITY

That is the social reality. Just as no one in his senses judges capitalists and capitalist politicians by what they say, it is equally ruinous to take at face-value what workers say. Saying, clear conscious expression is not their sphere. But it was Lenin who once asked the Bolshevik Party to remember that in February 1917 in Russia, nobody thought of socialism. Yet in a year or so the socialist revolution was a fact. It was there in February 1917, an unexpressed reality, but so potent and so ripe that when it emerged it altered the historic course of vast empires and billions of people.

The idea must become a reality but reality presses forward to meet an idea. So said the young Marx, clarifying the relation between a political philosophy and the masses. The idea is the idea of socialist revolution, the struggle of the party is the struggle to carry these ideas to the masses, to reality. But the masses, the reality, are struggling forward to meet the idea. But if the idea expresses the reality, then the reality contains the idea, instinctive, elemental, organic, unconscious but there, already, restlessly seeking ways of expression, and striving to become conscious.

Fighting Jim Crow on New York Beach

Picket line around Park Inn Baths at Rockaway Beach, New York, July 26, sponsored by the NAACP to protest discrimination against Negroes. Various labor, social and church organizations participated in this effective fight against Jim Crow. Another demonstration is planned for Sat. and Sun., August 2 and 3, starting at 11:30 a. m. A call has been issued for all opponents of Jim Crow to join this line at 115th St. and the Beach at Rockaway Park on either or both days.

Photo by Jeff Thorne

Narrow Margin Gives NMU Post To Stalinists

by Art Sharon

NEW YORK CITY, July 26 — Final tabulation of ballots in the bitterly contested Vice-Presidential election in the CIO National Maritime Union gave the post to Stalinist supported Chester Young over Charles Keith, choice of the Curran group.

Young won by the very small majority of 380 votes out of 21,000 votes cast. He takes the place of Joseph Stack leading spokesman for the Communist Party who was ousted recently on charges of "lying and slander." The victory of Young maintains the deadlock in the National Office. The National Office is composed of three Curran men and three Stalinists. This deadlock assures the Stalinists mechanical control of the Union's apparatus since all questions not resolved are referred to the Stalinist controlled National Council.

PAST MASTERS IN LYING

In the conduct of their campaign against the Curran group the Stalinists did not betray their tradition. Once more they demonstrated that they were past masters in the arts of slander and lying.

The Stalinists made special appeals to the various racial and national minorities in the union, telling them that unless they won these minorities they would probably be driven from the union. Curran in his column in this week's Pilot characterized this as "the unpardonable crime in a democratic union." "They demonstrated," he said, "that to gain their ends, they are willing to pit race against race, and nationality against nationality."

The literary goon squad on the **Daily Worker** played its part in the division of labor. That sheet ran a series of articles by number one hatchetman, George Morris, "uncovering" a dastardly conspiracy to split the NMU. Joe Curran ordered the union's attorney to prepare a libel suit against the **Daily Worker** whereupon the conspiracy angle was promptly dropped. A new series of articles appeared written by a lesser scribbler devoted mainly to proving that the **Daily Worker** had supported the various strikes of the NMU, thus giving them the right **of a friend** to uncover "conspiracies" and pleading that anyway this was an inner labor movement affair and should not be taken into the capitalist courts.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The end of the election campaign for the post of Vice-President does not end nor even moderate the internal struggle inside the NMU. At the present time ships crews are electing delegates to the coming national convention of the union. The well-organized and well-financed Stalinist machine is bending every effort to assure a majority at the convention. Their continued control of the union is at stake.

The Curran group has up to now been very reluctant about the organization of a rank and file opposition group. But it is becoming clear that unless the opposition is organized it will be defeated and routed. A minimum of organization in the just concluded election would have easily carried the day for the Curran forces.

Curran seems to recognize this. In this weeks issue of **The Pilot** he speaks about the need of organization and finances to carry on the struggle against CP control of the union. The approaching convention will give the Curran group an opportunity to form an organized faction.

This coming year may well prove to be the decisive year in the NMU's history. If Stalinist domination of the NMU is ended, the possibility of unified action with the AFL sector of the maritime industry becomes a reality. The NMU will have rid itself of a terrible burden which is not only costly but whose treachery and opportunism could easily spell disaster for the tens of thousands of seamen who place their faith and hopes in the NMU.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

On the very day Mayor O'Dwyer's cops were cracking the heads of CIO Office and Professional Workers pickets on strike at the Brooklyn Trust Company, Stalinist leaders of the New York District, CIO United Public Workers, sent a letter to the Mayor terming his labor politics "sound and progressive on the whole." A few days later, O'Dwyer tried to "outlaw" the strike of the Queens bus drivers, issued a call for strikebreakers and provided armed police escorts for scab drivers.

* * *

Labor Leader, the misleadingly titled organ of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, carried a vicious attack on the Brooklyn Trust Strike in its July 25 issue. The ACTU sheet raised the howl of "communist" and charged strike leaders with "attempting to promote the idea of 'class war.' " To Labor Leader's demand that the CIO national leaders "disavow" this militant strike — the first against a major bank in the United States— CIO President Philip Murray replied by assuring the strikers of the CIO'S "wholehearted support."

* * *

The International Association of Machinists, with a membership of more than 600,000, has voted three to two in a referendum against reaffiliation with the American Federation of Labor. Jurisdictional conflicts with a number of AFL craft unions, particularly the Carpenters, still stand in the way of the IAM's return to the AFL.

* * *

William Green and the top AFL moguls have again replied to CIO proposals for immediate joint action to combat the Taft-Hartley Act with an insistance on CIO affiliation with the AFL on the AFL's terms. The position of the CIO on organic unity is restated in the July 21 CIO News:

"1. Complete recognition of the principle of industrial unionism.

"2. Protection of the autonomous rights of national unions in a new labor organization.

"3. Provision for the creation of effective labor political action machinery.

"4. Parallel action by committees of CIO and AFL operating in the same field to carry out the unity program among themselves."

* * *

Louis Waldman, who first won notoriety as a leader of the yellow Social-Democrats in this country, has worked his way up to a job as general legal counsel for Joseph "King" Ryan's International Longshoremen's Association, AFL. Waldman advised the recent ILA convention to faithfully observe the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law and not to follow other AFL and CIO unions in boycotting the new NLRB.

* * *

Philip Murray's under-cover anti-red drive in the CIO has resulted in the recent "resignation" of at least four Stalinists on his staff who have served him faithfully for many years. In addition to Len De Caux, whose career as CIO News editor ended July 15, Fred Avila, assistant editor, and Harry Gantt, advertising and circulation manager, have also been given the boot. Robert Lamb, Washington legislative representative of the CIO Steelworkers, has likewise "resigned."

* * *

The Independent Fur Manufacturers Association in New York has the "honor" of instituting the first damage suit against a union under the Taft-Hartley Act. Last week the Association filed suit for $500,000 damages from the five locals of the CIO International Fur Workers of America, because the union's agreement with the Fur Wholesalers Association of America provides that FWAA members will buy fur garments only from jobbers and distributors under union contract.

* * *

James H. Rand, head of the anti-union Remington Rand Company, used a ship-to-shore radio-phone hookup from his spacious yacht out at sea, to agree to terms for settlement of the bitter five-week strike of 9,500 CIO United Electrical Workers in five cities. The terms provide an 8-cent wage increase, six paid holidays, and arbitration for an additional 7-cent wage demand.

"King" Ryan—A Success Story

By Art Preis

Joseph P. "King" Ryan recently came into the news again — this time not in connection with murder on the waterfront, rackets and shakedowns or strikebreaking.

The absolute ruler for 27 years of the AFL International Longshoremen's Association graciously permitted his "boys" at the ILA convention two weeks ago to "unanimously reaffirm" his life-time term as president of the union.

ENSURED FOR LIFE

Other union bureaucrats and racketeers might well envy Ryan his status. Occasionally they have to go through the motions of being re-elected. He appears to have solved that problem. His $20,000 a year and "pickings" are ensured for life. At least, that's what the motion read.

"King" Ryan didn't rise to the top entirely unaided. To natural aptitude has been added the friendly and often decisive support of influential sectors of society. His success, you might say, has been aided by the blessings of the Church, the favor of Tammany Hall, the good-will of the bosses, and the live-and-let-live indulgence of the top AFL leadership.

To this has been reportedly added a nodding acquaintance with a choice collection of gangsters and racketeers. It is widely rumored that black-jacks, brass knuckles and other mediums of persuasion have helped him over rough spots—not that Ryan will admit it.

OTHERS ARE "REDS"

A good union member to Ryan is one who pays his dues and "extras" promptly, votes right when he's told to vote and keeps his mouth shut. Any other kind of member is a "red" and a "communist"—which is very deleterious to health in Ryan's union.

Ryan's lieutenants—among whom there has been a high incidence of mortality by violence owing to close association with racketeers—are on his personal payroll as delegates to the association's New York District Council. New York's 771 miles of waterfront are Ryan's chief domain.

There is a dearth of membership and financial records. Expulsion of members requires a mere verbal order from Ryan. A copy of the ILA constitution is said to be a collector's item.

It is not surprising therefore that Ryan has come a long way with a minimum of intellectual luggage. His program sums up as follows: Vote the straight Tammany ticket, keep on the good side of the employers and tirelessly lambast the "reds."

The words most closely associated with Ryan's long reign are "shape-up" and "kick-back."

THE "SHAPE-UP"

The "shape-up" is the method of hiring on the East Coast docks. Each morning the longshoremen must line up for inspection and approval of the dock bosses, who can arbitrarily select the workers they want.

This means a vicious system of favoritism by crooked pier bosses who work hand-in-glove with racketeers outside and inside the union. Thus the average honest and hard-working longshoreman is subject to irregular employment and the whims and abuse of the pier bosses.

He is also bled by extortions. He is forced to pay "kick-backs" in one form or another to the pier bosses and union "fixers."

New York City's waterfront is the lushest field for "pickings." Here Ryan's lieutenants hold sway amidst thriving rackets. And in the past ten years, at least 20 murders have been traced to gangsters who have infested the dock areas and infiltrated the ILA locals. Since 1940, five officials of Manhattan Local 824 have been "rubbed out" in the course of rivalry between racketeer gangs.

There has been a singular--you might say a suspicious—lack of energy by city officials in cleaning up criminal activity on New York's waterfront. Perhaps, the answer may be traced to Ryan's boast, when he headed the New York City AFL Trades and Labor Council, that the Council under his leadership was "Tammany first and labor afterwards."

Nor does Ryan act without benefit of clergy. It is well known that the Catholic hierarchy views him as a bulwark against "communism" on the waterfront. There was real symbolism in the action of the recent ILA convention in voting an honorary life-time gold membership card to Msgr. John J. O'Donnell, port chaplain.

"MODEL" STATESMAN

The shipping companies, too, consider Ryan a model "labor statesman." Under his leadership before the war, 76% of the longshoremen received average weekly wages of less than $25 a week. Loading is hired out to loading companies on a tonnage-rate basis. Hence there has grown a tremendous speed-up, overloading of slings and numerous accidents.

Ryan's chief merit to the bosses is his strikebreaking proclivities and his firm, not to say rough, methods of eliminating union militants or "reds."

Ryan's life in the past 12 years has not been all pretzels and beer. It started in 1934 on the West Coast when the longshoremen went on strike and Ryan flew out to make a deal with the bosses over the workers' heads and to "outlaw" the strike.

The West Coast longshoremen revolted, eliminated the shape-up, and finally affiliated with the CIO as the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

In 1936-37, Ryan "outlawed" the East Coast strike, made a sell-out deal with the employers and was successful in beating down—literally—internal revolt.

Then in 1939, Pete Panto began to organize a militant opposition, that grew to 1,200 members. Panto just up and disappeared, to reappear in 1941 as a lime-encased corpse in a frozen clay bank over in New Jersey.

ROTTEN CONTRACT

Ryan's biggest head-ache came in October 1945, when 35,000 New York and New Jersey longshoremen rose in revolt against his attempt to shove a rotten contract down their throats. In the subsequent series of strikes—"outlaw," of course —they nearly toppled Ryan's throne. The intervention of Stalinist Harry Bridges, head of the CIO longshoremen, gave Ryan the pretext for terming the revolt a "jurisdictional raid" and defeating the opposition by an appeal to organizational loyalty.

Today, the opposition to Ryan inside the union lacks a real militant leadership. Among those making bid to such leadership is Gene Sampson, brother of Frank Sampson, O'Dwyers' appointee who took over control of Tammany from the old gang, among whose supporters is "King" Ryan. Gene Sampson made the motion to "reaffirm" the life-time presidency of Ryan at the ILA convention.

But the fact that Ryan felt the need to "reaffirm" his life-term, originally voted four years ago, has its own implications. Kings don't resort to such "democratic reaffirmations" unless their thrones are shaky. Ryan's throne is riddled by the termites of rank and file dissatisfaction and hatred. In the not-distant future he will take his place with other ex-crowned heads whose boast it also was: "The King can do no wrong."

Our Program:

1. **Defend labor's standard of living!**
   - A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
   - Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
   - Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!
2. **Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!**
   - For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!
   - Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!
   - Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. **Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!**
   - No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
   - No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. **Build an independent labor party!**
5. **Tax the rich, not the poor!**
   - Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
   - No taxes on incomes under $5,000 a year!
6. **An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
7. **Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
   - End Jim Crow! End anti-Semitism!
8. **For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
9. **A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**
   - Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!
   - Against capitalist conscription!
   - Abolish the officer caste system!
   - Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
   - Trade Union wages for the armed forces!
   - Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. **Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!**
    - For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
    - Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. **For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

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4,500 Jews Get Another Lesson in "Democracy"

By Evelyn Atwood

For the past 12 days, 4,500 Jewish refugees, among them 1,800 women and children, bound for Palestine, have undergone bloodshed and torture at the hands of the British imperialists that Hitler could hardly excel.

Packed like sardines in an ancient American ferryboat renamed **Exodus 1947**, this mass of tired, hungry, unwashed people, clad in rags, sleeping on boards, endured their hardships in the hope of finding a place where they could b gin a new, decent life for themselves and their children.

About 17 miles out of Haifa, six British warships — five destroyers and one cruiser — opened up savage warfare on the little vessel and its defenseless occupants. The warships smashed into the **Exodus** from three directions, enveloping the ship in a cloud of fire bombs, gunfire, tear gas. Huge portions of the ship were reduced to kindling wood.

SCORES WOUNDED

For more than three hours, while women and children screamed, the murderous assault continued. Twenty men fell seriously wounded, five lay dying, a hundred were injured. William Bernstein, 24, of Los Angeles, chief mate of the ship, with four others in the wheelhouse were attacked by armed British soldiers who leaped aboard the vessel. Bernstein died the following day in a Haifa hospital of a fractured skull. A 15-year-old boy, orphaned by Hitler's gas chambers, expired of British gun wounds. Jewish boys were "smashed down like animals," reported J. S. Grauel, former clergyman and now working with the American Christian Palestine Committee.

The damaged ship, in danger of floundering, made for the Haifa port. The ship's captain flashed a message to UNSCOP (United Nations Special Commission on Palestine) which correctly stated: "Come quickly, come immediately to Haifa to witness a shocking crime against humanity and international law. There was never such a crime on the high seas. . . ."

Unloaded from the **Exodus**, many of them in bloody bandages on stretchers, the Jewish immigrants were ordered aboard three British ships, the **Empire Valour, Ocean Vigour** and **Runnymede Park** for re-shipment to France. Food supplies were far from sufficient for such multitudes.

British officials still claim that the refugees were well treated. The condition of the involuntary passengers revealed quite the contrary. Several died as a result of ill treatment or of wounds. According to a Reuters dispatch, a Jewish doctor who went aboard the **Runnymede Park** said there was an epidemic of diarrhoea among the children. But reports about the condition of the ship's occupants could not be verified, since newspaper men were forbidden even to approach the ships. The wretched people could be observed only through field glasses. Some were peering through portholes. Others were standing on decks which were completely compartmented with barbed wire.

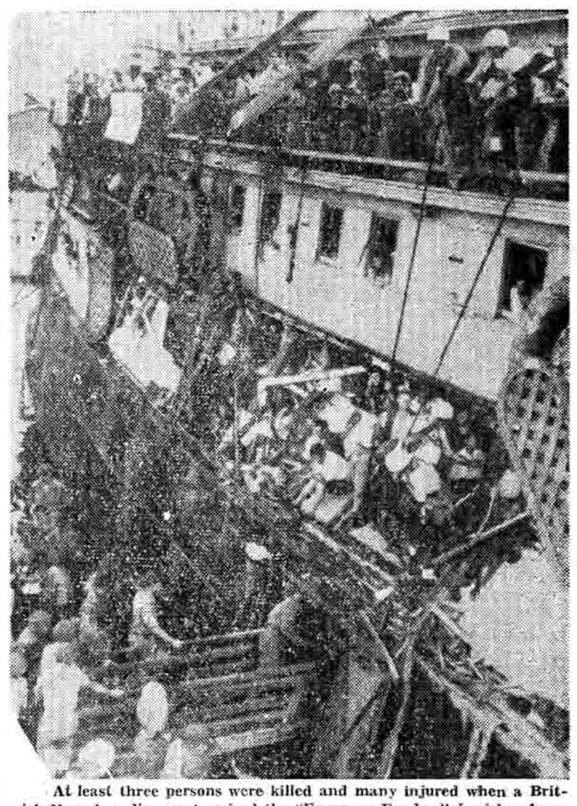
So bitterly have the Jews suffered in Europe at the hands of the Nazis and later of the Allied "liberators" that to date they are refusing to leave the ships docked at Port de Bouc, France, and accept refuge offered in France. "The authorities seemed relieved when the refugees declined to land and the British did not demand a forcible evacuation of the vessels. There was obviously a lack of supplies to care for so large a group," reports the July 30 **N. Y. Times.**

U. S. SHARES GUILT

The British imperialist brigands are not alone in their responsibility for this monstrous episode which is only one of the shocking crimes against a long-suffering people. President Truman's crocodile tears about their plight, his hypocritical request of the British government to permit 100,000 Jews to emigrate to Palestine, cannot cover up the crime of Wall Street's government in closing the doors of this country to these displaced persons.

The Jewish people, like the oppressed, toiling masses of the whole world, will find genuine peace and security only when the monstrous capitalist system is abolished. But right now their hardships can be mitigated through a demand raised by the workers of every country to open its doors. Above all, in this big and rich country, the workers must force Congress and Truman to immediately open the doors to the Jewish and other refugees.

British Seize Refugee Ship



At least three persons were killed and many injured when a British Navy boarding party seized the "European Exodus," Jewish refugee ship outside territorial waters off Palestine. Shown at Haifa with a visibly damaged side, the vessel's rails are lined with throngs of would-be immigrants and members of a British steel-helmeted picket detachment can be seen on deck.

Federated Picture

Wall Street Has a New Program for The Ruhr

By Arthur Burch

American imperialism entered the second world war with the objective of dominating the world. Its immediate goal was to destroy the German and Japanese imperialisms, especially the former, and to keep this highly industrialized rival prostrate. The fast declining French and British empires could be gradually absorbed into the orbit of the American colossus. **The United States could then settle accounts with the Soviet Union forcing it either by economic pressure or war to become just another American colony.**

Even before Germany was defeated the American plan for its future was announced to the world. Known as the Morgenthau plan, it called for the transformation of the most highly industrialized country of Europe with its advanced technology and its superbly skilled working class into an agricultural community. Blinded by their unexampled arrogance and stupidity, and unaware of the contradictions facing the decrepit capitalist system, the American brigands began to put this plan into effect at the Potsdam conference at the end of the war.

Now, only two years later, the American industrial giants with their pygmy brains have finally realized that the fantastic Morgenthau plan can't work. True they have no serious competitors on the world market, but it is also true that Europe, a key sector of the world market, is in shambles. The United States can sell to Europe only if the American taxpayer foots the bill. The most powerful imperialism the world has ever seen is thus in dire straits because it has succeeded too well in crushing its rivals. A ruined world is its greatest liability. Unlike all former empires this parasite has nothing more to feed on and must first revive its victims to continue to suck out their life blood.

ON A PAYING BASIS

The economic phase of the Truman Doctrine was to provide peacetime lend-lease for the world, especially Europe, America's best customer. But with a potentially powerful Soviet Union remaining outside the orbit of American imperialism there is a danger that these huge exports with nothing received in return will sap the resources of even this mightly Goliath. Besides, the American taxpayer is becoming restless under the stupendous sums exacted yearly for foreign aid. The American industrialists are therefore seeking some means to reduce this drain. The world, and first of all Europe, must be placed on a paying basis.

This is the basis of the Marshall plan. It too calls for the outlay of billions but with the hope that at the end of four years no further sums need be provided. The money is to be used for the revival of European industry. More specifically it means the rebuilding of the Ruhr, this sixty by forty mile area which is the hub of the German coal, iron and steel industry and the largest concentration of plants in Europe. Without its industrial potential Europe must continue to stagnate. Revival must begin in the Ruhr.

This course embarked upon by the American rulers means the scrapping of the Potsdam agreement. There it was decreed that the German standard of living was to be the lowest in Europe. Under the new plan the German economy is the first to be revived and the German living standards must be raised accordingly. No more Ruhr plants are to be scrapped and transported to the Soviet Union, England or France in payment of reparations.

STALIN OPPOSED

Stalin is of course opposed to the building up of the Ruhr under American domination unless he is promised a major share of its industrial products as reparations. France objects to revival of the Ruhr steel industry since she hopes under the Monet plan to make her own steel plants the largest in Europe, utilizing Ruhr coal in the process. Her counter-proposal to the Marshall plan is that she be granted a period of time to prove that she can turn France into the workshop of Europe. A vain hope! The United States expects to get France into line with the bait of additional credit but in the meantime American imperialism has been forced to postpone the stepping up of German reconstruction and has agreed to consult France before boosting German production.

U. S. SELF INTEREST

In reestablishing the Ruhr the American industrialists are least of all overlooking their own interests. The United States has no intention of providing the funds necessary for revival only to permit England to continue to control this territory. Thus the Marshall plan envisages complete domination of the Ruhr by American imperialism with management left in the hands of German Quislings who of course prefer the new master because he can pay more for their hire. England is balking at this proposal but she has been made to understand that the badly needed dollar credits won't be forthcoming unless she capitulates to the Wall Street financiers. Cocksure of themselves, the American blackmailers have little doubt of the final outcome of the coming conference with London and Paris on the Ruhr at Washington.

American imperialism is adamant that the Ruhr must not be nationalized. The English Labor Government has committed itself both to its own people and to the German workers to nationalize the coal and steel industries in the Ruhr. Under nationalization the English capitalists hope to garner their profits in the Ruhr in the same way as they do under "socialization" in England. Nationalization was to be a spur to the German workers for speeding up production. But the United States wants to put a stop to the spread of nationalization in Europe. Besides, the American industrialists want to own the mines and factories either directly or through their German Quislings and thus get the full surplus value from German labor. Recognizing the weighty argument of greater incentive for production under nationalization, American imperialism has proposed an incentive plan of its own, offering higher rations and promising industrial products in return for all coal exported.

DIFFICULTIES ARE GREAT

Wall Street is determined to turn the Ruhr into an American colony, and make its economy complementary to the American industrial machine. But the difficulties facing American imperialism are no less greater than those it confronted under the now scrapped Morgenthau plan. It is conceded a minimum of $3,200,000,000 will be required over the next four years, half of it to be poured into Germany in the beginning to get the industrial revival under way. This sum is undoubtedly an underestimation.

Even if the U. S. financiers succeed in this ambitious project they will be building up their own gravediggers. For the German working class is the most industrialized, highly skilled and most politically advanced in Europe. With regained confidence it will play a leading role in throwing out the invader and setting up a Soviet Germany that will be the nucleus for the Socialist United States of Europe.

Stalinist Line Shifts To Right in Australia

During the Second World War the Australian Communist (Stalinist) Party followed a line of open betrayal of the working class as brazen as the strike-breaking line of Earl Browder in the United States.

In 1945 the Australian Stalinists heaved a sigh of relief when the line shifted to the "left" and they were permitted once more to denounce the capitalist class.

But now the line's changing again. Stalinist chieftain J. C. Henry, on his return from the London Conference of the Empire Communist Parties, announced a shift to the right.

The May 20 **Tribune**, organ of the Australian Stalinists, declared that "Australia's main task today" is "the struggle against economic penetration by the American monopolists.

"To wage this fight, there should be a National Front, which will be fighting for peace, to expand democracy in our own country, and to help strengthen the democratic forces, particularly within what is generally referred to as the British Commonwealth of Nations

"This National Front should include workers, farmers, town middle-class people, and patriotic elements among the capitalist class in Australia."

The Australian Trotskyist paper **The Socialist**, reports that "All Stalinist publications now hammer away on the same note —Down with Uncle Sam! Long live John Bull! The grievances of the Australian workers receive less and less attention."

"The new line means," says **The Socialist**, "that the local capitalist class is being offered the services of the Australian CP in the vile work of trying to stop the forward march of the workers against capitalism."

International Notes

London authorities are convinced that American credits cannot be stretched beyond the end of this year. On July 27, **N. Y. Times** London correspondent cabled: "Recent figures for drawings on dollar credits show that the rate of expenditure has increased to such an extent that the fund probably will be exhausted before this year ends." With new hikes in U. S. prices, which more than swallows up the few millions saved by slashing workers' living standards in England, this prospect is virtually a certainty.

* * *

The strike wave in France has declined considerably. Although the Government employes are giving evidence of wide discontent with the "settlement," they have not taken recourse to further action on a large scale. In several government bureaus brief walk-outs have taken place. In one case a leader of such an action was immediately penalized. However, this aroused such a storm of protest that the penalty had to be revoked in the face of a new strike movement.

The most important new movement are the strikes among agricultural workers. In the environs of Paris and in the rich Beauce plain, where large landed estates exist, strikes are currently in progress. In their turn, the land workers are taking up the demand for wage increases.

Flouting a recent decision of the German Stalinist Party to withdraw from all "denazification" boards in the Hesse Province because of alleged discrimination, most of the C. P. officials hang on to their posts on these boards.

Bloody Suppression Used Against Ceylon Strikers

In May and June the Ceylonese authorities ran the gamut of deceit and intimidation in their efforts to break the strike of the Ceylon government clerical workers, who conjointly with other striking municipal employes, bus and truck drivers, workers in tea and rubber packing industries, oil workers and many others had virtually brought life in the Colombo Municipality to a standstill. Upon failing to crush the strikers, Ceylonese authorities then decided to resort to methods of brute force.

To pave the way for a bloodbath, the State Council, in a record time of 90 minutes, passed a gag-law, "The Public Security Bill," empowering the police to stop meetings and demonstrations and to prevent the use of megaphones and even phonographs.

Huge protest meetings followed; the ranks of the tens of thousands of strikers remained firm. The authorities bided their time. On June 5, a day set for another mass demonstration, they decided the hour was propitious to strike their coldly calculated blow. Although a permit had been issued for the June 5 demonstration, the police suddenly charged the vanguard of the unarmed workers, stalled the procession and then fired point blank into the milling ranks wounding 19. Of the five workers in critical condition, V. Kandasamy, a clerk, died in the hospital.

For an eyewitness account of what happened, we reprint below a statement issued by Dr. N. M. Perera, a member of the split-off Trotskyist group in Ceylon and one of the chief leaders of the All-Ceylon Local Government Workers' Union. This statement, which has just arrived in this country, appeared in **Samasamajist**, June 15, issued by this group. Full text follows:

STATEMENT OF COMRADE M. N. PERERA

The procession of strikers which was fired upon by the police on the afternoon of the 5th (of June) was a peaceful and orderly procession which left Galle Face with a police permit setting out the route to be followed up to a place called Ralahamy's Garden on Kolonnawa Road where a meeting was to be held.

When I came to the place of meeting I found the head of the procession had been halted some distance before the turn to Ralahamy's Garden by a large concentration of armed police.

I was walking up to tell S. P. Robins that we intended holding a meeting in the garden, when I was hit two blows on the head and felled by a police officer. While I was on the ground I was further assaulted and a general attack was launched on the procession with batons. A little later the police fired 25 rounds on the helpless procession which was blocked from behind by a large armed police force. Of the injured 19 are still in the hospital, five in a critical condition. The police took no prompt steps to attend to the wounded. Party members had to commandeer private cars and rush the seriously injured to the General Hospital.

FALSE CHARGE

The statement that somebody from the procession discharged a firearm at a policeman is utterly false for obvious reasons and has been devised to save the political reputation of Mr. D. S. Senanayake, (member of the Council of Ministers).

I charge the Leader of the House with having cold-bloodedly planned the shooting, taking advantage of the information the processionists must supply under the new Police Ordinance amendments to obtain a permit. (End of Perera Statement.)

THE AFTERMATH

The government clerks returned to work. According to a leading editorial in the same issue of **Samasamajist**, "The workers have not wavered. Workers have not been frightened by the shooting of their unarmed comrades. On the other hand the Ministerial thirst for blood has steeled the determination of the workers. More workers are coming out. Their heroic struggle goes on."

C. S. S. ANTONIPILLAI

Member of the Central Committee of the official section of the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India, members of whose Celonese section are likewise very active in the Ceylon strike struggles. Antonipillai is a member of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress. Last March he was seized in his home at 4 in the morning and rushed to Vellore jail because of his militant activities in connection with the big Madras textile strike. On May 31 he was again arrested. A general strike of 100,000 Madras workers protested his imprisonment.

Burma Assassinations Are Aid to Reaction

The assassination of U. Aung San and other Burmese ministers is a symptom of a malaise which the "constituent" is powerless to remedy — a pill to cure an earthquake. The Rangoon killings have already provided a handy weapon to the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL) to crush all political enemies and the arrest of the Red Flag Communists, who can have nothing to do with senseless assassinations of this kind.

U. Aung San was the youngest Asian politician and the sponsor of the AFPFL, which at one time had closely collaborated with the Stalinist party in Burma. Aung San had a meteoric career, he came to power on the crest of a wave of nationalism. Thanks to the general strike, organized by the AFPFL, resulting in the complete breakdown of the administration of the country, Aung San's party was summoned to form the Executive Council of the Governor. The acceptance of office had a mellowing effect on the policy of the party and shortly afterwards, the AFPFL broke with the Stalinists and drove them out of office. Aung San was quick to make his peace with the government and accepted on the Indian model the Burma variant of an "interim government" and Constituent Assembly so-called.

But Burma, like India, could not assuage, even under Aung San's leadership the growing unrest of the masses and like the sun-dried bureaucrats of old, he and his colleagues relied more and more on repressive measures to stifle all discontent. The Red Flag Communists, who seceded from the Stalinist party and who are today more influential in the country than the so-called "communists," were illegalized when they opposed Aung San's reforms. By Tammany Hall methods and the employment of the private army at the disposal of the AFPFL, Aung San swept the board in the General Elections which took place only a few months before.

The Aung San regime only a short while ago imposed new restrictions on the labor movement and issued dire warnings to the Civil Servants against further strikes. It should be noted that political assassination is by no means rare in Burma and only a few months back an attempt was made on the life of U. Saw, Aung San's chief opponent.

Trotskyist Editor Latest Victim of Bombay Jailers

CALCUTTA, July 25—Comrade Indra Sen is still detained without trial by the Bombay government in India. Sen is the editor of the *New Spark*, and as such his arrest is a blow aimed at the party paper. Sen is one of the most brilliant theoreticians of the Bolshevik Leninist Party and one of its sponsors. For over five years following the August struggle he was hounded by the Indian police. The way he withstood the suffering under the old and new regimes is in the best traditions of Bolshevism.

Comrade Mandekar, the youngest member of the Bombay unit, although one of its oldest militants, is rotting behind prison bars. The Bombay unit has suffered very much as a result, as he had been the best trade union organizer at the disposal of the unit. His loyalty and devotion to the unit are incomparable and the Bombay unit owes much to his work both among students and laborers.

Comrade Tulsi Boda, the secretary of the Bombay unit, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for having defied the police ban in connection with the anniversary of the Royal Indian Navy mutiny. It may be remembered that the Stalinists backed out at the last moment leaving comrade Boda and others to the tender mercies of the notorious Bombay police. Comrade Boda put up a political defense in the court which will remain the gravest indictment of the Congress rule in India.

Wall Street Backs Dutch In War on Indonesians

(Continued from Page 1)

"without prejudice" to the present positions of the parties or their rights or claims.

Meanwhile the slaughter raged in Java and Sumatra as American tanks, American planes and American artillery continued to bomb, strafe and shell defenseless Indonesian civilians.

The Dutch generals triumphantly announced seizure of goods accumulated for the past two years by the Indonesians. These goods, they said, will be sold on the world market as fast as they can be transported. Up to now Dutch warships have blockaded Indonesian ports to prevent the Indonesian people from sending their products abroad.

As Dutch troops knifed ahead in accordance with tactics perfected by the Nazis, stocks on the exchange at Amsterdam soared, shooting up as much as 10 points in a single day.

STANDARD OIL'S CONCERN

In southern Sumatra, officials of Socony-Vacuum, a Standard Oil subsidiary, accompanied the Dutch armed forces. They are in constant touch with home offices in New York. Standard Oil is particularly worried over possible damage to refineries and high-pressure wells as the Indonesian freedom fighters defend themselves.

A column of black smoke from one field rose 4,500 feet high and stretched downwind for at least 50 miles. A United Press dispatch said that Tom Conger, New Orleans, La., field superintendent for the Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., was directing efforts to extinguish the fires. He flew in an American plane manned by Dutch flyers.

As was to be expected, the reaction of the Indonesian people to the blitzkrieg has not been reflected in immediate military victories. But that does not mean the Dutch are certain of conquering.

SCORCHED EARTH POLICY

One observer who flew over Java counted 200 fires where the Indonesians had put the torch to warehouses and plantations. There were many more fires beside this, he reported. The Indonesian unions are playing an important role in carrying out the scorched earth policy. At one port alone, Probolingo, only 50,000 tons out of 165,000 tons of warehouse space remained after Republican fires.

Guerrilla activities appeared to be increasing as the first shock of the sneak Dutch attack spent itself. The **N. Y. Times**, apprehensively watching the reaction of the Indonesian people, feared "another Indo-China." There, it will be recalled, the French imperialists made rapid military victories but to this day have not succeeded in dominating the areas outside of the port cities.

This opinion is shared by Ronald Stead, correspondent of the **Christian Science Monitor.** He told how at Saigon, one of the principal cities of Indo-China "scarcely a day passes" without "a homemade hand grenade exploding somewhere within the city limits." Outside the city, nationalist guerillas "range throughout the open country," he declared.

"The anticipation is that the Dutch . . . will find themselves" in a comparable situation. "One's impression is that, no matter what high-speed successes are hammered out militarily at the expense of the Indonesians in the coming days, the Netherlanders are saddling themselves with a long and exasperating war whether they like it or not."

REPERCUSSIONS FELT

The war in Indonesia is having profound repercussions in the colonial world. Almost all newspapers in India have pointed to the use of American arms against the republic and condemned the Dutch. Headlines on Indonesia take the play away from domestic events. Accounts frequently fill a whole page.

Sheikh Hassan El Banna, Moslem Brotherhood leader at Cairo, Egypt, cabled a protest to the Dutch on the attack which he described as an "unfriendly act against the Arab and Islamic world."

At Singapore 19 organizations set up an Indonesian Aid Committee to organize a volunteer fighting force against the Dutch and collect relief supplies for the Indonesians.

The Philippine Government expressed its sympathy with the Indonesians. And the Indian government denied the use of its airfields to Dutch planes.

Workers too are showing active sympathy for the Indonesians. On July 24 the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia placed a ban on loading of all Dutch ships in Australian ports. At Sydney a riot was reported when hundreds of university students and longshoremen picketed the Dutch consulate.

At the big port of Karachi, India, longshoremen unanimously resolved not to handle any Dutch ships.

PROTEST STRIKE

In Amsterdam the workers staged a one-hour general protest strike against the assault launched by the Dutch government on the Indonesians. The dock workers in the progressive E V C federation of unions declared a boycott on all ships bound for Indonesia or loading military supplies or troops. The EVC, which controls 70% of labor in the major ports of Holland, proposed to the conservative NVV federation a joint general strike against the war.

The Revolutionary Communist Party, Dutch section of the Fourth International, has issued a call for a full-scale general strike of protest throughout Holland to halt the war. The Dutch Trotskyists have been in the forefront of the fight for Indonesian freedom and for the recognition of the republic.

PCI Proposes Fusion To French SP Youth

PARIS, July 25—Meeting last weekend, the Central Committee of the **Jeunesse Communiste Internationaliste**, youth section of the French Trotskyist Party, the PCI, adopted a resolution proposing fusion with the Socialist Youth which recently broke with the SFIO (Reformist party) because of its opposition to the class collaboration policy of the adult organization.

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"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879."

"Today it is no longer a question, as was the case in the nineteenth century, of simply assuring a more rapid and more healthy development of economic life; today it is a question of saving mankind from suicide."

Leon Trotsky

Action Needed On Labor Party

As reported in last week's Militant the demand for organization of an independent Labor Party continues to mount.

The Washington State AFL Convention called for the election of members of organized labor "to Congress and to other public offices (both national and state) in 1948."

The National Conference of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America reaffirmed the policy of the recent international convention to support "independent candidates" and to work for the formation of a party representing the interests of the working people.

The Executive Board of the AFL Sheet Metal Workers passed a motion urging the AFL Council to launch a campaign for a labor presidential candidate in 1948; and suggested John L. Lewis as a possible nominee.

The motions of these labor bodies are only the latest in a long series throughout the country calling for the organization of labor on the political field. In view of this mounting ground swell of sentiment, why don't the heads of the trade unions get going? What's stopping them from launching a Labor Party?

The fact is that the majority of the mossbacks at the heads of the trade unions are incapable of setting out on the road to independent political action. They still live in the horse and buggy days when they could get by supporting either the Democrats or Republicans with the formula of rewarding labor's so-called "friends" and punishing labor's enemies. They refuse to change this course of political betrayal of labor's interests.

Most of the remaining trade union heads give only lip service to the idea of a Labor Party. They will vote for motions favoring it and even make a speech on the subject on occasion. But so far as taking the practical steps necessary to actually launch a Labor Party, that's different.

Thus the official heads of the trade unions in effect sabotage organization of labor's own forces on the political field.

The ranks can count only on themselves to break through this treacherous opposition. Since the trade union heads are stalling on launching the Labor Party on a national scale, the ranks must begin on a local scale. They must push for campaigns to run union representatives in state, county and city elections.

Indonesia Appeals To 1776

If ever an appeal fell on deaf ears it was the appeal of Indonesian President Soekarno to the Truman Administration for aid in the defense of the Republic of Indonesia from the imperialist attack of the Dutch colonial despots.

"Just as you in the United States in 1776 fought until you gained your independence," said Soekarno in his radio broadcast July 25, "so we shall fight until we are free. Just as you then rebelled against domination by a country far across the seas, so are we."

Soekarno, unfortunately, was knocking at the wrong door for help. The last thing Truman and his Administration want to be reminded of is the revolutionary traditions of 9merica. It is not the Patrick Henrys, Samuel Adams and Benjamin Franklins who sit in Washington today; no—not even their spiritual descendants.

Nothing remains among the American capitalists and their political representatives of the revolutionary fervor of the Boston tea party and Valley Forge excet historical markers.

The American ruling class of today is the exact opposite of the revolutionary founders of the United States. They are counter-revolutionaries. They deliberately seek to put down colonial rebellions. They are on the side of all the colonial despots, Dutch, British, French, Belgian. They have their own colonies. And they are in deadly fear of revolution.

Throughout the world, the foundation of Washington's foreign policy is to bolster reaction by any means necessary, no matter how costly, or destructive or bloody.

The real spirit of these political representatives of the Wall Street counting houses was revealed in the note the State Department sent the Republic of Indonesia BEFORE the Dutch launched the all-out drive.

This note emphasized the "grave concern" of Washington over the possible "destruction of American property." The note was particularly concerned about possible damage to the oil fields where Standard Oil and Shell have big interests. Any scorched earth policy damaging the high-pressure oil wells would result in "permanent and total loss, ruining completely American capital, which means a loss to Americans, Dutch and Indonesians and the world regardless of who owns it."

The timing of this note indicates that the State Department was well aware the Dutch were about to launch their war of annihilation. But the only reaction of these capitalist politicians was fear that the torch might be put to the holdings of American capitalists as the Dutch, equipped with American arms, began murdering the colonial people seeking independence.

What could more eloquently reveal Wall Street's views on the spirit of 1776 in this day and age?

The modern ally of the freedom fighters in the colonial lands is the working class. It is only from the workers that the Indonesians can expect help. Let the workers everywhere respond without delay to the plea of embattled Indonesia. The heritage of 1776 now belongs to the working class.

Bureaucrats and Cooperatives

The top officialdom of both the AFL and CIO have recently displayed a lively interest in co-operative ownership of stores and factories. The AFL has called on its members to form such organizations. And the CIO has just released a pamphlet, "Unions and Co-ops," which falsely declares that co-operative ownership "means a chance to wipe out monopolies and production restrictions."

This sudden appreciation of the value of co-operatives can only be welcomed. Co-operatives foster working class initiative in distributing labor's products. Co-operatives foster the independence of the working class, teaching them in practice how useless the capitalist class is.

But these, unfortunately, are not the reasons for the approval now given by the trade union heads to the co-operative movement.

As fast as the workers win a wage increase, the profit-mad capitalists take it away with unwarranted price jumps. The union ranks want an effective program to meet this repeated siphoning off of their gains.

A sliding scale of wages is the answer. As prices go up, wages would automatically follow. But only militant leadership can win an effective provision like that. And militant leadership is a weapon you won't find in the arsenal of top AFL and CIO bureaucrats.

Consequently they seek plausible ways and means of getting around the rank and file demand for a program that will really maintain the standard of living. That is why they have now taken up the co-operative movement. It's so easy to write a pamphlet telling the millions of union members that the only way to lick high prices is to go into business themselves in a collective way.

The rank and file answer should be — good! We are for co-operatives. But that's not enough. We demand in addition a sliding scale of wages right now as the most effective safeguard against skyrocketing prices.

Stalinists and the Labor Party

The most insidious and treacherous opponent of the labor party movement and genuine independent labor political action is the Communist (Stalinist) Party.

Under their guise of misleading propaganda for a vague "third party," the Stalinists are actually trying to head off the rising movement for a labor party and steer it back into capitalist political channels.

Striking evidence that the Stalinists are attempting to scuttle and sabotage any move toward real independent labor political action was afforded most recently at the annual conventon of the Wayne County (Detroit) CIO. The Stalinists were instrumental in blocking passage of a resolution to support labor candidates. Their chief whip, Nat Ganley, claimed this "would pit capital against labor" and "divide the people." (See story on Page 6)

The real game of the Stalinists is revealed in the July 27 DAILY WORKER, Communist Party organ.

A special article, signed by Milton Howard, proposes a "third party" merely to line up labor's votes once more for the discredited Democratic Party.

The DAILY WORKER says it is most anxious not to "split the progressive vote" and that a "GOP victory must be prevented." It denies that a third party "must have its own candidates whose votes will be pulled away from a liberal Democratic candidate." In fact, a "third party" as envisaged by the Stalinists "would undoubtedly support these candidates running on another ticket."

In short, the Stalinists are putting forth a formula to undermine the movement for a labor party against both capitalist parties and to coral labor's votes once more for candidates of Wall Street's Democratic machine.

The Stalinists want to make another dirty deal with the capitalist politicians. Their "third party" talk is designed in large part as pressure for such a deal But the Stalinists make clear that at all costs they want to preserve the present political alliance of the labor leaders with the capitalist political machines.

It is typical of the devious methods of the Stalinists that they deceive the workers with "third party" talk while planning to lure them once more through a back gate into the capitalist political camp.

"The Taft-Hartley Act will teach those workers they can't be pushing us around!"

MOVIE REVIEW

CROSSFIRE

Hollywood has made another concession to the public's desire for socially meaningful films. In the language of the daily press, it has "dared," it has had the "courage" to deal with anti-Semitism on the screen.

Monty, a recently discharged veteran, hates the Jews. In a fit of drunken rage, he beats a young Jew to death. Monty lives in the same hotel in which his buddies, who are still in the Army, are quartered. The film shows, in the main, how Monty attempts to pin his guilt upon a buddy of his, how the latter is exonerated with the help of a clever police ruse as well as the faith of his friends in his innocence. Monty, at last, is felled by a police captain's gun, when he attempts to escape from arrest.

The producers found but one occasion to introduce what is presumably their main subject. In a long, well-acted scene, the police captain remarks upon the nature of anti-Semitism, illustrating his point by citing the persecution of Irish immigrants in the U. S. in 1945. The film, as a whole, is tense, the soldiers and veterans portrayed in it are quite real in their restlessness and bewilderment, and there are a few well-done scenes.

None of these qualities, however, alter the framework of the film, which is a murder thriller. Let us leave aside the failure — probably deliberate — of Hollywood or any other institution to bring home to the American people the lessons of the fate of European Jewry. Let us grant that a lesson can be taught by choosing an "extreme" case, where an anti-Semite kills a Jew. Even in that case it would be necessary to show the life and struggle of both the Jew and the anti-Semite. This would involve telling the truth. But Hollywood cannot do it. Instead, as usual, the lie thickly encrusts the tiny kernel of truth.

For example, the police is portrayed in this film as a force of good. The police captain (one of the chief actors) is an unusually cultured man. It seems, to believe this film, that the police is one of the mainstays of democracy. But how well the police can protect against anti-Semitism may be judged by how well it "protects" the Negro or the Mexican. Another example is the fact that a major part of the film is devoted to proving the innocence of Monty's buddy, involving various utterly irrelevant "human interest" scenes.

There is one instance where the police captain asks a soldier whether he had ever killed a man. Yes, answers the soldier, where you get medals for it. This is a very good reply. But, like the police captain's remarks on anti-Semitism, it remains a mere appendage. There is no organic connection between these glimpses of truth and the murder-thriller plot.

All the experiences of the past ten years have shown that anti-Semitism cannot be solved by well-meaning police captains or propaganda.

For the theater, it would be sufficient to show the truth (it is not its task to solve anything): anti-Semitism as a life problem, as an integral part of the social structure and therefore of the life of every man and woman. But Hollywood dares not establish a living connection between life and anti-Semitism. A film like this is added proof of the intellectual cowardice of the movie-makers, not, as the "liberal" and "progressive" reviewers would have it, of their "courage."

—Eugene Shays.

Congressmen At Work

A Job Well Done For Wall Street

Not for an entire generation has any single session of Congress succeeded in dealing such heavy blows in behalf of Big Business against labor as did the 80th Congress, just adjourned.

It was a war-mongering Congress from the word go. Scarcely a day passed without its quota of bellicose speeches and cries for action against the Soviet Union—one of the principal targets selected by Wall Street for World War III.

On May 22, the bi-partisan coalition of Democrats and Republicans passed the Greek-Turkey Aid Act, thereby setting their official seal of approval on the reactionary Truman Doctrine. This act ear-marked $400,000,000 out of the U. S. Public Treasury to bolster up the Turkish dictatorship and the unsavory Glucksberg dynasty installed by Allied bayonets in Greece.

Passage of this act was taken by the Greek monarchy as the green light for a reign of terror that was still raging as Congress adjourned —a reign of terror that exceeds anything seen even under the bloody Metaxas dictatorship.

On May 31, Congress passed the Foreign Relief Act, making available another $350,000,000 to help bolster reactionary regimes particularly in western Europe.

How war-minded this session was can be judged from the colossal budget it approved for the armed forces — more than $10,000,000,000. This is roughly a third of the whole expense account run up for all government activities.

Then in a final blaze of fireworks, Congress passed a bill to streamline the biggest peacetime military camp in American history, unifying the Army, Navy and Air Force in one military department. Heads of the Air Force at once announced plans to have their section of the military ready to fight "by Christmas."

The plea to admit a trickle of 100,000 displaced persons from Europe was brushed aside contemptuously by this body intent on the preparations for another slaughter.

They likewise turned a deaf ear to the cry of the Indonesian people for help against the Dutch imperialist aggressor who has launched an all-out military campaign to smash their newly-founded Republic.

The 80th Congress gave fresh hope and inspiration to reaction throughout the world, not only by way of direct aid and encouragement but also by way of example.

The bi-partisan combination of Democrats and Republicans reached new depths of red-baiting, not hesitating to pillory such a mildly liberal figure as Lilienthal. Truman set the key note with an executive order for a purge of "disloyal" persons on the government pay roll—"disloyal" meaning anyone whose ideas might cross the views of the bigots on the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Republicans and Democrats vied in whipping up the red scarce and witch-hunt.

This red-baiting was a calculated part of the anti-labor drive. First Congress passed the Portal to Portal Act that robbed millions of workers of back pay due them and crippled the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Then they tore up the Wagner Act by passing the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Act. This measure was characterized by CIO President Murray as "a step toward fascism." But the indignant nation-wide protest of the labor movement did not swerve Wall Street's political representatives. A majority of Democrats in Congress joined with the Republicans to pass the bill over Truman's veto.

As a vote-getting sop to the veterans, Congress passed the terminal leave pay measure. There was nothing generous whatsoever about this. The money was long due the veterans and had already been paid to the officers.

A bill to raise subsistence payments to GIs under the so-called Bill of Rights in view of skyrocketing living costs was killed.

The legislative record of the 80th Congress to be properly viewed must be placed against the background of the needs of the people.

Although prices have soared to new astronomic heights, Congress did nothing whatsoever to bring them down. In fact they passed a Housing and Rent act that gives profit-gouging landlords a club to boost rents by 15%.

A proposed bill to lift minimum wages from 40c an hour to the low minimum of 65c got nowhere. Bills broadening social security and proposing an increase of a few million dollars on federal aid for education suffered a similar fate.

The housing crisis, so acute now that 18,000,000 are living doubled up, was not touched by these friends of the real estate lobby. Even the completely inadequate Taft-Ellender-Wagner bill was quietly pigeonholed.

Fair Employment legislation remains as distant as ever, as does legislation to end the poll tax. Although a series of shocking lynch murders again emphasized the crying need for a federal anti-lynch law, these racial-minded Democrats and Republicans saw no reason for taking action.

In casting up the balance sheet, the plutocrats could note only one failure on the part of Congress. The rich didn't get the tax relief law they wanted. Congress did its best, however, passing the same measure twice, trying to get the extra few votes necessary to over-ride a Presidential veto.

But the rich did not complain too much. After all, the 79th Congress gave them colossal tax rebates and profits are still soaring to new highs. Moreover, Congress kept the heavy burden of taxes on the poor.

All in all, it was about as near a perfect session of Congress as Wall Street has seen in a long time.

FLINT

TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

Hear the recorded speech of
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"All Is Confusion," Wails Leading Wall St. Organ

Truman's latest Economic Report, heralded as both "optimistic" and "pessimistic" in the daily press, is being subjected to a deal of razzing in the house organs of Big Business. The capitalists like to fool the workers, but for themselves they want to know the real score.

Thus, the **Wall Street Journal** of July 24 evaluates the Truman report under the headline: "Confusion Among the Prophets."

The 80-page Truman statement, based on the "studies of his Council of Economic Advisers, is "a sort of undistilled witches brew," says the **Journal.** "It is couched in such vague generalities, its conclusions are qualified with so many 'ifs' and 'buts,' that it says nothing while seeming to say everything."

Although Truman's report is the product of a leading group of government economists, the **Wall Street Journal** confesses that "economics is not a science in spite of its scientific trappings." This refers, of course, to the "economics" of the apologists of capitalism.

In addition, says the **Journal,** Truman's report is "leavened by much politics. Its writers, like the Apostle Paul, want to seem all things to all men."

While Truman's report overflows with optimistic boasts, its findings for the critical reader are not conducive to optimism.

"But if it is the best of times," the **Journal** explains the report, "it is also the worst of times. Wages haven't been able to keep up with rising prices. There is a 'deflationary threat for the future' but 'recent developments have sharpened the evidence that the inflationary danger is still with us'."

After taking the report apart and listing its contradictions, the **Journal** concludes:

"In sum, the inquiring businessman will find from the report that while the outlook is 'predominantly encouraging' the road is strewn with pitfalls. We may continue on the present plateau. Or have inflation. Or maybe deflation. The businessman and the Administration can plan accordingly. To borrow a phrase from the first of these reports, the times are ambiguous."

The report has "no evaluation of the data, no discipline in the judgments." What Truman desired was that "however the situation turns out, the report's writers can point back to a section and say: 'We told you so'."

The capitalists are desperately anxious to get some clear-cut, reliable prognosis of the future. And here, after all the gibes at the Truman report, the **Journal's** commentator ruefully admits that when "asked if he could offer any more penetrating predictions" the "answer, obviously, was no."

Still he complains that Truman's report was "supposed to contain the considered judgments — even if wrong — of the best economic brains of the government. It is doubtful if anyone today needs an 80-page monograph complete with tables just to tell him all is confusion."

"All is confusion." That is indeed the condition of American capitalism and is graphically reflected in the thinking of "the best economic brains of the government" and the **Wall Street Journal.**

The contradictions of capitalism are so manifold and deep-going, so appalling for the capitalists to contemplate, that they dare not give a truly scientific evaluation of its course and future. That is the task of the Marxist, the genuinely scientific economist, who is not blinded by the desire to preserve an utterly rotten economic and social system and dares to point out that the "confusion" of capitalism is inherent in it, the symptoms of a mortally sick social system.

What Colonial Peoples Can Expect From U. S.

Among the two and a half billion people who have been promised "four freedoms" by U. S. imperialism, the great majority belong to the so-called colored races. They have observed in their own lands no little evidence that the attitude and actions of the American white ruling class is somewhat less than benevolent.

But there have been several incidents recently inside the United States itself which constitute object lessons to the people of China, India, Africa, Latin America and wherever else Wall Street propagandists have spread the gospel of the Atlantic Charter among the "non-whites."

The American press last week reflected a small ripple created by an incident in Decatur, Ill. A restaurant in that city—the Blue Cow Restaurant—declined service to a party of six persons whom the proprietor took to be Negroes.

This incident—a commonplace of our "democracy" North and South—would have passed unnoted, had the six offended individuals not been officials of the India government, including Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, personal physician of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Roy, on an official mission to investigate conditions of visiting Indian students in this country, related the incident while he was in Salt Lake City. He called it "an example of the American caste system."

Following Dr. Roy's public statement, Mayor Hendrick of Decatur expressed his surprise and regret. "If Dr. Roy was in difficulty, I am sorry that he did not get in touch with me."

But why should anybody have to ring up the mayor in "democratic" America to get service in some hash-house like the Blue Cow Restaurant? And would Hendrick have been so distressed, if those so rudely treated were everyday American Negroes against whom this discrimination is designed in the first place?

When the people of India hear of this—as they no doubt will—they will very likely wonder how much faith to put in the good-will protestations of U. S. imperialism which preserves such a system of discrimination within its own domestic borders. Or they may wonder, as will other hundreds of millions of the darker-skinned races, at the prospects held forth to them by the United Nations, when they hear of what treatment the very employes of the UN receive at the UN's capital in New York City.

Last week, some 1,000 UN employes passed a stiff resolution of protest, addressed to Secretary General Trygvie Lie, asking him to cancel arrangements with the Metropolitan Life and New York Life Insurance companies for UN accommodations at the two insurance companies' new housing projects.

The contract, insisted on by the companies and granted by the UN officials, gives the companies the right to pass on the "suitability" of any UN applicants for housing. "Suitability" will be determined, the UN employes correctly believe, by the color of the skin.

Col. Leon Dostair, a U. S. specialist connected with UN arrangements, opposed the UN employes' resolution, saying: "Is there a single nation where all the principles of the Atlantic Charter are applied?"

The hundreds of millions of oppressed colonial peoples may well reply: "If visiting diplomats of darker skin and the very UN employes suffer discrimination in the United States, the chief power in the United Nations, then there is no hope at all for us in the UN and its Atlantic Charter."

Workers' Forum

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant." Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Help The Indonesians Win Their Freedom

Editor:

The war in Indonesia is a war for national freedom. These people have been under Dutch rule for about 300 years, and now they want to free themselves from foreign rule.

It is too bad the Dutch should go to such measures. I wish they would see their wrong and give up. They will maybe say they have invested lots of money there and must see to it that their investments are taken care of.

But just think for a moment about all the profits they have taken out of there. And think of how the Indonesians have toiled for them, for the barest existence. And remember all the time that the national wealth is the rightful property of the Indonesian people.

Don't say that those people don't know how to make proper use of their resources. Just think if some outsiders had insisted that those "American colonials" didn't know how to make any use of their immense resources and then kept us down in ignorance and subjection. They tried, didn't they?

But there comes a time in the life of a people when they wake up. And at that time I think there should be no attempt to break their will to progress. It is their right to live as human beings, and the nations and peoples who have come a little farther should welcome them and assist them into the rank of free peoples. Their time has come and they must be free to progress forward to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I will congratulate you on the improvement in the appearance of the paper since it was moved from Saturday to Monday. So onward march, to work for a Socialist world!

Mrs. M.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Wants "The Militant" Better Distributed

Editor:

I have just read your paper and I would like to compliment you. But of course, the best articles in the world are worthless if no one reads them.

Why can't we find **The Militant** on newsstands? Why aren't they sold in Newark at Broad and Market Street the way the **Watch Tower** is sold?

I don't think you have to be told about the crucial times we are now in. Now is the time to reach the masses.

G. D.
Irvington, N. J.

Finds Coles Wrong On Truman Speech

Editor:

It is with a little hesitancy that I endeavor to take to task L. P. Coles of New York, who—in the "Workers Forum" of the July 21 **The Militant**—approved Truman's speech to the NAACP. However, I feel that Mr. Coles should be answered.

Despite his fine background in the labor movement which goes back further than my time on earth, Mr. Coles runs amok in his reasoning: to wit, that a little bit of liberalism is better than outright reaction. Or, to put it succinctly, that capitalism and all the class hatreds which it breeds can be patched up to become the defender of the working class. As well expect a tiger to become a vegetarian.

In Mr. Coles' opinion, "Truman said, and I believe in all sincerity, the right things, namely, ... 'all the people must have equality, all the people must have a job, all the people must have a trial in a fair court.' "

For a man of Mr. Coles' evident rich background, this seems to me to be worshiping banalities and empty platitudes. He says that he can't see why anyone could quarrel with that.

Perhaps Mr. Coles is unaware of the fact that Truman, far from making such cliches back in 1940, had this to say when addressing another Negro group, the National Colored Democratic Association: "Before I go any further I wish to make it clear that I am not appealing for social equality for the Negro. The Negro knows better than that, and the highest type of Negro leaders (the Booker T. Washington's), (sic) say frankly they prefer a society of their own people."

In the light of this declaration, it would appear that Mr. Coles is a victim of Truman's stereotyped phrase-mongering. Mr. Coles should know that Mr. Truman with an eye toward 1948 is preparing his campaign propaganda.

It won't do his chances any harm to attitudinize now for the record. The Negro people should beware of the smooth, glib tongue of the capitalist politician who is mending fences so that his path to re-election wil lhave fewer obstacles.

Truman's palpitating concern for the Negro is about as profound and sincere as his concern for the working class at large. The contention that he vetoed the Taft-Hartley bill because he held a soft spot in his heart for the working man is so much eye-wash.

His address to Congress, pleading for action against labor (including Negro workers) at the time of the railroad strike revealed his real views much better than his posturing before the approving gaze of the NAACP.

Norman Johnstone
Westville, N. J.

Brisk Pamphlet Sales At Yorkville Meeting

Editor:

The members of New York Central Branch of the Socialist Workers Party are enthusiastic over the response to the street meeting they held in the Yorkville area on July 29.

Up to 150 people remained for long periods of time to listen to the very fine speakers. Such comments as: "They're telling the truth!" were heard.

The crowd was composed mainly of serious-minded working men and women; the kind that our speakers hope to get whenever they go on a street meeting. There was no heckling or other disturbances such as often make such meetings difficult.

Some 60 **Militants** were sold. Other literature included "Build a Labor Party Now" by George Clarke and "American Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism" by James P. Cannon. The latter pamphlet, which has just been published, sold quite briskly.

E. A.
New York

Scores Stalinist Betrayers in Ceylon

Editor:

The Stalinists in Ceylon do not differ from their blood brothers elsewhere in the world. Recently they somersaulted into the lap of the imperialist-bourgeois alliance by joining the United National Party, the party of the local bourgeoisie led by the reactionary D. S. Senanayaka.

These betrayers of the working class are trying to inject communal politics into the politics of the class struggle. They have even carried communal flags in public rallies.

The Stalinists have openly declared that they have no enmity with the bourgeoisie. A bourgeois writer rightly declared in the press that Marx would turn over in his grave at the behaviour of the Stalinists.

The working class of Ceylon, however, has only the utmost contempt for the communalists and purveyors of race hatred. The workers of Ceylon are increasing in militancy and class-consciousness and are able to contrast the counter-revolutionary character of the Stalinists with the tested, militant and revolutionary leadership of the Trotskyists.

The youth of Ceylon, organized in the "All-Ceylon Youth League Federation" have passed resolutions unanimously condemning the fine art of intrigue and lies that the Stalinists have been taught by their Kremlin bosses.

Jayatissa Perera, President
All-Ceylon Youth League Federation

Colombo, Ceylon

Spanish Trotskyist Enjoys "The Militant"

Editor:

I enjoy very much reading both **Fourth International** and **The Militant**, which I appreciate for its high theoretical level and for its fight against capitalism as well as against Stalinism.

I have been in the Spanish Trotskyist movement since 1939 but I have never seen a paper in our movement like yours. I think your paper teaches us how to make a good workers' paper.

I have followed with great interest the nine articles by James P. Cannon on Stalinism and anti-Stalinism. I agree that he shows the only way to fight Stalinism and to denounce the professional anti-Stalinists. I translated the best passages of those nine articles into Spanish.

When I have read **The Militant** I give it to French students who are studying English in the University here and who are interested in learning about our world movement.

It is difficult for foreigners to find work in this town; nevertheless I know that a workers' paper needs the help of all its readers and I shall do my duty as soon as possible.

J. P.
South of France

Pass This Copy Of THE MILITANT To Your Neighbor

Grief-Stricken Tenant Shoots Landlord For Fire-Death Of 4

By Robert L. Birchman

CHICAGO, July 22 — James Willis Hickman, grief-stricken over the death of his four children and the permanent injury of another, shot his landlord, David Coleman, last Wednesday in the belief that the latter was directly responsible for their deaths in the tragic fire at 1733 Washburne Avenue last January 16. The landlord was critically wounded and died in Michael Reese Hospital on Saturday. The coroner's jury yesterday termed the shooting as "murder" and recommended that Hickman be held to the grand jury on that charge.

Hickman, a steel worker, confessed to Third District police that he shot Coleman while he sat inside a parked car in front of 2724 Prairie Avenue, talking to his half-brother, Percy Brown.

When interviewed by a reporter for the **Chicago Defender**, Hickman stated that Coleman had admitted to him that he had set fire to the three story frame building where the Hickman children were burned to death.

A LANDLORD CRIME

"In Hickman's mind, all evidence pointed to Coleman's responsibility for the burning to death of his four children. This idea has obsessed him until it reached the point where he could no longer control himself," said M. J. Myer, attorney for James Hickman in a statement to the press at the coroner's inquest into the death of David Coleman.

"At the bottom of this case are the terrible housing conditions under which human beings are compelled to live, and particularly the Negroes whose situation is even worse because they are compelled to live in restricted areas. The blame for this killing, as for the death of the four Hickman children, lies squarely on the inhuman housing conditions under which the Negroes are compelled to live," continued Mr. Myer.

"I have been informed that some progressive organizations and individuals are taking steps to form a committee to aid Mr. Hickman's defense," Mr. Myer told the press representatives.

The story of Hickman is the story of negligence and callous disregard of housing and health conditions. It is the story of the horrible slums in which the Negro people are forced to live in dilapidated, disease-ridden firetraps. It is the most tragic of many calamities in which 23 persons have lost their lives, many others suffered injuries and hundreds made homeless as a result of fires in Chicago's Negro ghettoes since the first of the year.

OTHERS BADLY INJURED

Last January 16 four of the Hickman children were burned to death. Mrs. Hickman, who jumped from the third floor of the blazing structure, is still suffering from leg injuries. The oldest child, Willis, also forced to jump, still suffers from a neck injury. Another son, Charles, miraculously escaped down the burning stairway and sole exit from the 14 by 14 foot attic where the family of eight lived.

There was no water, gas or lights in the building for weeks before the fire. The Hickmans had paid $100 in advance for a four-room flat, but were shoved into an attic cubicle without any facilities for which they paid $6 a week. Another family of 10, who paid a $500 advance and $50 a month rent, lived in a bare basement flooded by broken water pipes, despite constant appeals to the Board of Health. The owner of the building refused to allow the tenants to fix the water pipes themselves, trying to make them move in order to secure higher rents. The place was not fit for human habitation.

"We lived like rats in a hole. It wasn't a question of money. I had money, but I couldn't find a decent place for myself and my family," said Hickman, at the coroner's inquest into the death of his children.

Witnesses at the coroner's inquest quoted the landlord Coleman as saying that he would get the tenants out of the building "even if it takes a fire to do it." Two of the tenants, Albert Jones and Denver Wilson, testified at that time that a stranger, coming down the stairs at the time of the fire, told them to get out because the building was on fire. Wilson said that a can of kerosene was found later in front of the one-room attic flat where the fire started.

CONDEMNED CONDITIONS

The coroner's jury in its Feb. 27 verdict on the death of the Hickman children castigated the owners of firetrap tenements, "condemning vigorously the conditions existing at premises located at 1733 Washburne Ave." and added "especially do we wish to condemn the practice of the landlord, or owner, or agent of said premises for permitting such conditions to exist, and for such profit-making theory as exercised therein."

The jury was unable to decide whether the fire was accidental or incendiary in origin. They recommended that the case be turned over to the State's Attorney for further investigation, "with emphasis on housing conditions, particularly in segregated areas, affecting human lives."

The State's Attorney's office stated that an investigation would be launched to determine if there were any criminal violations in the Washburne tragedy and other tenement fires. To our knowledge the State's Attorney's office has failed to carry out such an investigation.

Repeated appeals to the city authorities, over a period of two years, to enforce regulations of the building code, health and fire ordinances have been futile. The city enforcement agencies have limited their actions to levying small fines against the landlord. In a series of court cases, a total of $450 in fines plus court cost have been imposed on the owners of the building.

The tenants of the building organized in the Chicago Area Tenants Union have been on a rent strike since the day of the fire, in a struggle to force the landlord to put the building in a safe, sanitary and livable condition.

They still have no water, no lights, no gas. The holes in the roof left by the fire have never been repaired. Every time it rains, water pours into the flats. No fire escapes or other safety measures have been installed. The city water department and the utilities companies refuse to provide facilities until the wiring and water pipes are repaired.

Coleman, the landlord, repeatedly tried to force the tenants to vacate. He served notice on them so that the building could be cut up into kitchenette apartments, of course renting at much higher prices, providing him with a greater revenue. The tenants were served with eviction notices in April. When the case came to trial in May it was dismissed by Judge Hermes in Renters Court.

Where Hickman's 4 Children Died

James Hickman (kneeling) father of four children burned to death in Chicago tenement fire on January 23 and Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party Organizer, examining, the day following the tragedy, the firetrap attic where the children died.

PIONEER NOTES

Particularly since passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, branches of the Socialist Workers Party have found a rising demand for Pioneer Publishers pamphlets on the labor party question and the need for independent political action by Labor.

Pioneer Publishers has definitely pioneered in this field and already has several popular works that branches sell in increasing quantities at union meetings and political rallies. These include **American Workers Need a Labor Party**, by Joseph Hansen, 15c; **Veterans & Labor**, by Charles Carsten, 10c; **Build a Labor Party Now**, by George Clarke, 10c, and numerous others in which the labor party need is linked with other aspects of the workers' problems.

Another, **Fight the Anti-Labor Law**, is soon coming off the press at 5c. This is a statement of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, which was printed in **The Militant** July 5.

* * *

Millie Ford, Pittsburgh branch literature agent, reports "Two of our comrades covered a meeting of steel workers' grievance men and stewards Saturday and in 40 minutes sold $7.50 worth of the Clarke and Hansen pamphlets. The meeting was of a type that will be held in all cities with some frequency in the next period. It's purpose was to discuss the union's situation now that the Taft-Hartley Act is in effect."

* * *

Pittsburgh has also been selling house to house. "Yesterday, with very little effort, Millie and Eloise sold $3.20 worth of literature in about an hour and a half; such pamphlets as **Build a Labor Party Now, A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow** (by Charles Jackson, 10c) and **The Coming American Revolution** (by James P. Cannon, 10c). In addition we covered a Stalinist Freiheit (Jewish C. P. Daily) meeting on "Inside Palestine Today," with attendance of 35 persons, and sold five **Middle East at the Crossroads**, by T. Cliff, in a few minutes before we were driven away by a heavy rain."

* * *

Order these pamphlets from **Pioneer Publishers**, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Los Angeles Score For Week is 49 Subs

A total of 49 subscriptions were obtained during the week by the **Los Angeles** branches in their campaign to get subs for **The Militant**. The scores for the week are as follows:

South Side Branch	14 subs
East Side Branch ..	13 subs
Los Angeles	13 subs
San Pedro	9 subs

J. Blake, Organizer of **South Side Branch,** explains how the comrades got the 14 subs they sent in: "Six of them were secured by our champ sub-getter — two in house-to-house work and the others as he usually gets them, wherever he goes, from the barber shop to a casual meeting through a friend. Four subs were secured in house-to-house work this morning by another of our best sub-getters, **Babe.** Three were secured in the shop by one of our steel workers, and the fourteenth by another steel worker."

* * *

During the last week of **Akron's** sub campaign, a reshuffling took place among the Pace-Setters. All through the campaign Comrade **Andrews** was in the lead, but the final report states that "the winner is **Patrick O'Conner** who nosed out Andrews by one point. The total number of subs is 43. While this is not an impressive amount of subs, the quality is very good. Most of them have been gotten in the shops, and the greatest majority of these are active union people."

* * *

Justine Lang of **Pittsburgh** mailed in 6 subs and briefly mentioned a joint picnic held with **Youngstown,** the proceeds of which are to pay up their accounts with **The Militant.** We are eagerly awaiting a full report of this picnic promised by Youngstown.

* * *

The Militant Agent for **St. Paul, Winifred Nelson,** mailed in 13 subscriptions, "6 of which Comrade **Paul** obtained in his shop."

* * *

The following report accompanied 6 subs sent in by **Fred Martin, Milwaukee's Militant Manager**: "This is a small number of subs but two of these stand out as being of very high caliber. One subscriber was president of an independent union in Detroit during the war. It had about 1000 members. He is now working in a shop with one of our comrades in a UAW-CIO union. The other subscriber was formerly close to the Stalinists. He took a one-year subscription and gave us a contribution of $4.

"With this letter," continues Comrade Martin, "I will be terminating my duties as **Militant Manager.** In our recent local elections the offices were shifted somewhat and I was proposed for Secretary so I declined for the office of **Militant** Manager. I have had this job for two years now so it is about time for a change. Comrade **Carol Andrews** will take over as the new **Militant** Manager. She should instill fresh blood and new ideas into the **Militant** Department."

It has been a real pleasure working with you these last two years, Comrade Martin. You have handled the job well.

* * *

We welcome back **El Snyder** as **Militant** Director for **Flint Branch.** She's already "on the ball." She sent in 5 subs, and promises that "after we get straightened out, we will be able to go out after renewals."

* * *

M. Jones of **Youngstown** explains that "three of these four subs were obtained by our **New Castle** comrades and the other by a comrade in the mill."

* * *

The **Detroit** comrades sent in six subs to **The Militant,** but no comment.

* * *

Sara Ross, substituting for the **San Francisco** literature agent who is on leave, requests that the branch bundle be increased to 125 copies a week. They are "going to start distributions at the warehousemen's union."

* * *

This week the **Buffalo** comrades sold 6 subscriptions to friends they work with in the shops.

* * *

E. Lambeth sends one last word about **San Francisco's** successful sub campaign which was concluded several weeks ago. "Comrade **Ida,** one of the team captains in our last campaign, is a darn good subgetter. In fact, she was the best in the drive."

Mid-West Camp is Host To Contingent from N. J.

LITTLE PLEASANT LAKE, July 17 — Each week life at Mid-West Vacation School and Camp is largely moulded by a group of campers from a different section of the country. This week is undeniably dominated by the contingent from Newark, N. J.

Although many of the eight visitors from the East boast of their prowess as fishermen, it must be truthfully recorded that their technique has so far not produced brilliant results at Mid-West. They have returned from their expeditions with no more than a number of small sunfish.

It appears that the big bass scorned all the lures Newark had specially fashioned; simply played with the bait on the hooks; and then swam off with a sneer. While the frustrated fishermen blame their failure on the bait and whatnot, the big ones can occasionally be glimpsed lurking in the shadowy waters of the lake; they tug now and then tauntingly on Newark's lines; and, as a crowning sorrow, are drawn up into the boats of neighboring anglers.

The weekly songfest around the campfire last Friday evening was marked by a genuinely internationalist flavor. In addition to the songs of the American workers, there were contributions in various languages. Two comrades from Boston sang in Italian and two from Newark followed with songs of the people fighting in the Spanish civil war. Some knew several French and German songs—and the final offering was a comic half-English version of a Danish drinking ditty.

Upon the insistence of many comrades, the class in public speaking is being continued this week and will be a permanent feature of the school during the rest of the summer. The course on American history is given in the morning and a discussion group on Marxism and the conditions of U. S. capitalism is held after supper.

Contrary to the custom of summer resorts, we must admit that considerable rain has fallen on Mid-West these past few days. The silver lining to all those clouds is the greater chance of sustained sunshine for those who come these next weeks. There are adequate accommodations still available for the rest of the summer season.

For reservations, write to Oscar Coover, Manager, Mid-West Vacation School and Camp, Route No. 2, Grass Lake, Michigan. Directions on reaching the camp will be sent on receipt of reservations.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

AKRON.—Socialist Youth Club meets Fridays, 7 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing, 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO.—777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

NEW YORK.—116 University Pl., Tele. GR. 5-8149 for information. Class in Marxism, Wednesdays, 8 p. m. Fridays Open Forums, 8 p. m. Sundays Hikes, Beach Parties.

For information about Queens Youth Group, write M. Kevin, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3.

PHILADELPHIA.—For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers at these Local Activities of

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.

BOSTON—30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO—**Militant** Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MAdison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Phone Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

CLEVELAND — **Militant** Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St.. (off Wade Park Ave.).

DETROIT — 6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

FLINT—215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES—**Militant** publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

SAN PEDRO—**Militant** publishing Assn.,—1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

LYNN, Mass. — 44 Central Square, Room 11. Discussion every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE—**Militant** Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Phone Main 7781 Library, bookstore.
Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—**Labor School,** 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday forums, 2nd and 4th of month, 8:30 p.m.

NEWARK — 423 Springfield Ave. Phone BIgelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.
Friday night forum, 8:30.

NEW YORK CITY HQ., 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Room 23. MO. 2-1866.
Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410-11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

PHILADELPHIA—1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor.
Open Forum 2nd and 4th Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Marxist Study Class every Thursday 7-9 p.m. 1418 Fifth Ave.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 432 F St., R. 213; open 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SAN FRANCISCO—School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., cor. of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor, open from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE—1919½ Second Ave. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p.m. Sat.
Phone SE 0453 Library, bookstore.
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Basic Training Class.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL—540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2. Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30 p.m.

TACOMA, Wash.—Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Odd Fellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO — 113 St. Clair St., 2nd floor. Open daily. Phone MAin 8919.

YOUNGSTOWN—35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

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by Myra Tanner Weiss

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THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX | NEW YORK, N. Y. | MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1947

DETROIT CIO BODY DEBATES KEY ISSUE OF LABOR PARTY

DETROIT, July 28—The Annual Convention of the CIO Wayne County Industrial Union Council, representing 500,000 workers in the Detroit area, took place July 24, 25 and 26. The delegates instructed the incoming Executive Board to organize a Joint Committee of all sections of Detroit labor to handle the coming municipal elections for Mayor and City Council.

This Joint Labor Committee must also call a conference within 30 days to select candidates and organize the campaign.

The spirit of the militant delegations was embodied in the resolution of UAW-CIO Local 306, a local of 8,000 members, to "go on record for the election of a labor Mayor and City Council in the coming elections of the city of Detroit." It was supported by Chrysler Local 7 with 16,000 members, and other local unions. This resolution became the subject of great debate between forces who want to organize "independent political action of labor," and the right wing who choose to support so-called "pro-labor" candidates.

SHARP DIVISION

A sharp division occurred on this question in the Thomas-Addes caucus, which dominates the Wayne County Council. Paul Silver, field representative for R. J. Thomas and chairman of the Resolutions Committee, led the fight for a labor election campaign. In opposition stood Nat Ganley of UAW-CIO Local 155 and a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party. Ganley was the key-note speaker for the old Gompers, pro-capitalist political policy of supporting labor's "friends."

Ben Probe, chairman of the right wing of this caucus as well as the Stalinists, accepted the resolution introduced to the Convention by Local 306 with this difference: The PAC confused the issue and deceived the delegates by adding a simple prefix to one word: They called for pro-labor candidates instead of labor candidates.

BECAME OBVIOUS

This difference, however, became obvious to the delegates of the Convention when Erwin Baur, UAW-CIO Local 306, pointed out that Mayor Jeffries of Detroit could be endorsed by the labor movement under the pro-labor phrase of the PAC's report. Mayor Jeffries had already spoken to the Convention. In his greetings, he had stated that he was pro-labor and that all he wanted was some "regulation of labor."

Two speakers from the PAC and two from the Resolutions Committee took the floor. Jack Lesnik, member of the resolutions Committee from Local 306 (later elected as a vice president of the Addes slate) spoke for a strict labor slate, pointing out that in Detroit organized labor and its families represent 80% of the population.

CONDEMNED SCHEME

Lee Romano, chairman of the Pressed Steel Unit of Ford Local 600, supporting the idea of a labor candidate for Mayor, condemned sharply the projected scheme of the Detroit union leaders supporting Mayor Jeffries in the last elections when he ran against the former vice president of the UAW, Richard Frankensteen.

The CP'er, Nat Ganley, in speaking for a "pro-labor" Mayor, sought to confuse the issue by stating that the resolution did not exclude the running of a labor mayor. However, he gave his true political line of capitulation to the capitalists and their political stooges when he stated that to run a labor mayor is "sectarian" and that it "would pit capital against labor and there by divide the people."

Paul Silver, most clearly revealed the bankruptcy of the policy of supporting "friends of labor" when he pointed out that Mayor Jeffries of Detroit had originally been elected as a "friend of labor." But the UAW was forced to spend almost a quarter of a million dollars in an effort to throw him out of office.

LASHED AT BETRAYERS

Silver lashed out at those labor leaders now prepared to betray labor and once more support Jeffries. He reminded the delegates that a majority of the Detroit City Council, condemned by this Convention for their do-nothing rent and housing policy and for their inability to create adequate recreational facilities, were elected as "friends of labor."

The opposition to a labor-slate carried the day by a 2-1 vote. However, the issue will finally have to be determined at the Joint Labor Conference to be held in thirty days. This much the militant delegates won.

For some years now a number of the Reuther-dominated locals have withdrawn from the Wayne County CIO Council. Those leading Reutherites who had not withdrawn and who were present contributed nothing to the Convention on any issue. They occupied themselves only with the attempt to elect a Reuther slate of officers, headed by Pat Quinn of Dodge Local 3, former President of the County Council. The Addes-CP slate, headed by Tracy Doll, Sam Sage and Coleman Young, carried all the posts by an approximate two-thirds majority.

DIVISION TO CONTINUE

The cleavage on the labor election campaign shows a sharp division in the Addes Caucus and will be continued in the incoming Executive Board because both points of view are represented.

The Convention also adopted a resolution condemning the management-labor committee established by the labor leaders in Detroit along the lines of the so-called Toledo Peace Plan. It demands the withdrawal of the labor representatives from this body. A resolution calling for the formation of a tenants council, struggle against the rent increases, and for the use of the flying squadrons to put evicted families back into their homes, was also adopted.

(See editorial: "Stalinists and the Labor party" — Page 4)

Powerful Base for Labor's Own Party

According to the new Directory of Labor Unions issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics there are nearly 200 national and international labor unions in this country. More than 100 are in the AFL, 40 are in the CIO and the rest are unaffiliated.

"Are Polls Fair To Organized Labor"

By Joseph Hansen

Suppose you were stopped in the street by an interviewer taking a sample poll of public opinion and asked to answer yes or no. "Are you in favor of a law to stop members of trade unions from beating their wives?" How would you answer?

Chances are that if you replied without stopping to think, you would record yourself in favor of such a law. But if you took time to think it over first, you might answer: "Your question is worded wrong. I am in favor of a law to stop bankers and bosses from beating their wives."

Does this sound absurd? Not according to an article "Are Public Opinion Polls Fair to Organized Labor?" published in the winter 1947 **Public Opinion Quarterly.**

This article reports the findings of an exhaustive survey made by a member of the board of applied social research at Columbia University. Seven leading opinion polls from 1940 to 1945 were analyzed, altogether 155 questions.

Here is the result of the survey: "One cannot escape the conclusion that the labor-poll material is biased. It contains many varieties of bias, but they all point in the same direction. In the choice of topics, in the wording of questions, and in the reporting of results, unionism fails to receive balanced and impartial treatment.

"The polls taken as a whole are clearly not fair to organized labor.

"Few indeed are the questions to bring out the faults to business. No dearth of questions on unions' interference with wartime production, but not one on management's hoarding of labor or its self-interested delays in accepting Government contracts. Questions on unions' blame for strikes but not on employers' blame for sustained wages or for unsafe conditions in coal mines. The contrast is striking. Even when an occasional poll touches the sensitive spots of big business, the question and the report are mild and cautious in tone compared to those on labor."

Of the 155 questions asked in the 7 polls, "only 8 deal with favorable features of unionism, such as the protection and improvement of the lot of the working people. Of the rest 66 are neutral or doubtful, 81 are concerned with union faults or propose restrictions on unions."

The survey lists four "types of bias" in the questions. (1) Questions that offer a choice between an evil and a particular proposed remedy, usually a law. (2) Questions that subtly suggest a biased general answer. Thus a **Fortune** poll asked, "How many labor leaders in your community do you think are doing a god job in representing labor? Are honest in handling union funds?" (3) Questions that are "oversimplified." For instance a poll asked: "Do you think that workers should be forced to stay in a union if they want to resign or get out?" (4) Questions that are deliberately slanted to get an affirmative reply. A Gallup poll asked: "Would you like to see labor unions change their way of handling things?"

The survey confirms what has long been known by class-conscious workers: a majority of the polls of public opinion are used to shape public opinion. Like the press, the radio, the schools and the pulpit, the polls in the hands of the capitalists are a propaganda weapon deliberately wielded against the labor movement.

"A Health Pattern for Labor"

By Grace Carlson

Like the weather, preventive medicine is a subject about which a lot of people talk—but few do anything. The fact that it is better—and easier—to prevent disease than to cure it is agreed upon by most doctors. But the fee system of private medicine bars the way toward any effective widespread program of preventive medicine. To the private practitioner, who depends upon his fees for a living, sick people represent a source of profit. Sick care—not health care—is the cornerstone of private medicine.

Medical prepayment plans represent a step in advance of the fee-for-service system. But of the multitude of health insurance plans, supported by union, cooperative groups, employers, or medical societies, few even make any pretense of offering a rounded program of medical care. In these health insurance plans, the question of whether the worker is a good medical risk or not usually takes precedence over the ideal of preventive medical service. Such cooperative health centers as the Farmers Union Cooperative Hospital of Elk City, Oklahoma, the Ross-Loos Clinic of Los Angeles, the Community Health Center of Two Harbors, Minnesota and others have made significant advances in the direction of preventive medicine.

But of all cooperative health centers in the country, the Labor Health Institute of St. Louis, Missouri is unique. Set up in 1945 by the Joint Board of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, CIO, the Labor Health Institute offers a comprehensive program of free medical care to its members. The full scope of the health services offered to the union members by the Labor Health Institute is explained in an attractive, 24-page booklet issued in March of this year. Copies of this booklet may be obtained by writing to the Educational Department, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, 1127 Pine St., St. Louis 1, Missouri.

The proud boast of the Labor Health Institute is that "it gives service when you need it, where you need it and for as long as you need it"—and all of this "at no cost to the union member"! Through the union contracts, the employers finance the Labor Health Institute by the payment of sums equivalent to 3½% of their payrolls. The Labor Health Institute, itself, is democratically controlled and operated. A Board of Trustees and an Executive Board manage its affairs. Two-thirds of the members of these boards are union members, who are elected to these posts by the union membership.

Located on the fourth floor of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union headquarters, the Labor Health Institute offers all of the facilities of a modern health center "under one roof." The latest and most modern scientific equipment—X-Ray machines, equipment for ultra-violet and infra-red treatment, devices for making blood tests, urine analyses, etc.—are available at the Labor Health Institute.

On the Labor Health Institute staff are specialists in dermatology, allergy, eye, ear, nose and throat diseases, pediatrics, dentistry, neuro-psychiatry, surgery, gynecology—22 in all. Union members and the members of their families, who enroll in the Labor Health Institute, obtain the kind of good medical care which can come only from group medical practice. Most important of all, the Labor Health Institute emphasizes sickness prevention and health conservation through routine physical examinations and a systematic program of health education.

Despite the limitations imposed by the shortage of funds, the St. Louis Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union has done pioneering work in preventive medicine. The union's educational booklet tells a solid truth when it proudly proclaims that "The Labor Health Institute Sets a Health Pattern for Labor."

Wall Street's Epic Tuesday

By John G. Wright

Tuesday, July 29 was an epic day on Wall Street even though it came and passed without being recognized as such in the capitalist press. To be sure, it was noted that the eight-week-old bull market, so tenderly nursed along, was suddenly sent skidding on its plump rear. But this was palmed off as "a healthy correction."

The fact is, Tuesday was Wall Street's peculiar way of recording and reacting to the steep price-hike made by the Steel Trust, which will send up all prices. Skywards must go the price of everything—from thumb-tacks through to sparkplugs to new oil refineries. That's as sure as death and taxes and unemployment, the only three things capitalism absolutely guarantees.

Yet stocks did not go up. In fact, on this strange Tuesday, they suddenly plunged. Only 100 out of 1,072 issues sold resisted this downward swoop. Dig how deeply you will into past records, this drop in the stock market in the face of a general price rise stands unmatched.

How can this be explained? The rather substantial offerings of blue-chip stocks—as large incidentally as any that have been consistently thrown into the eight weeks of the bullish market—make it obvious that substantial individuals and groups were unloading. Their identity, of course, remains top secret. But it is not hard to guess that they are the very same gentlemen who with their right hands hiked the price of steel—and of everything else.

In this way, by selling short, a few dishonest billions have been turned up many times before. Higher prices mean, it goes without saying, higher immediate profits. But these wolves look beyond that. They see the inevitable **future** consequences of these same high prices.

Some of these operators will return at leisure to buy up the very stocks they are now selling at whacking prices. Still others, predominantly the foreign holders, were simply and sadly bidding their final farewells, quite uncertain as to their future goings and comings. They are well aware that their ability to stay in the stock exchange is none too secure anyway—what with the dollar shortages and other countless difficulties of their respective governments, let alone the projected "aid" of Washington, with the "self-help" clause of the Marshall Plan which in plain language means turn your pockets inside out while Wall Street takes everything of value.

Thus the tickers in both London and New York are saying: "The higher we take everything up the inflationary spiral, the greater will be the crash."

It goes without saying that the stockmarket, as the prime "regulator" of future trends, does not play a **direct** role in economic life. Wall Street can neither precipitate a bust nor conjure up a boom whenever and however it pleases. But its **indirect** role can prove immense, especially during the initial phases of a downward economic cycle, such as the one in which we happen to be.

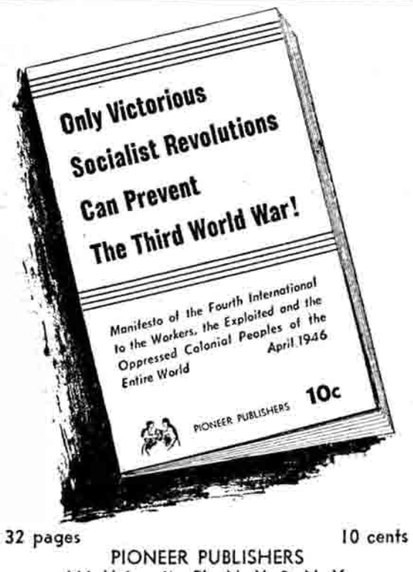
A great deal, therefore, now hinges on what happens in the immediate future on Wall Street. Stocks can go higher—easily. Just like snapping your fingers. As easily as did the prices of steel. These people can do anything they please—up to a point and at a certain price, that is. If they decide to take a junket to the moon, up we go—later to descend far swifter than we rose.

The second and more rational variant—from the standpoint of the welfare of their own capitalist system—would be to hold the stock market on an "even keel," cushioning each downward swoop as production and mass purchasing power reel lower and lower. This would tend to keep the ship floating a little longer. It would solve exactly nothing in the end; but it would at least postpone the disaster; it would at least not aggravate the situation as much as all the other variants surely must.

But who will undertake to guarantee this "rational" course. How much does the welfare of the "whole"—even of the capitalist "whole"—weigh in the scales when there's a harvest of dollars to reap? Contrary to popular illusions the greatest killings are made not on bullish but on bearish markets. With boundless vistas now opening up before the Wall Street gang of raiders what if the really Big Commandos succumb to their itching palms?

This would give us the third and rather likely variant: to ride a bear market to the bottom.

Finally, other variants combining the diverse features of all the three main variants can by no means be ruled out. But choose any variant you will, the final outlook spells the same: These men, who hold the nation's industries are playing fast and loose with the welfare of the whole American people and indeed, the world.



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It Pays to Organize

Veterans who paid a "bonus" to secure apartments at 4846 Sheridan Road win refunds totaling $1,950. The out-of-court settlement was negotiated by M. J. Myer, Attorney for the North Side Tenants League, (right). Mrs. William Martin hands out checks to (left to right seated) James Jensen, Joseph Klassman, Joseph Berns and Jerry Weinstein. Other tenants look on. Chicago Times Photo

Williams Petition Drive Passes Signature Quota

NEW YORK, N. Y., July 28 — More than 4,600 signatures have been obtained on nominating petitions for Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senator in the 23rd Senatorial District. This is 1,600 more signatures than the law requires to place Williams' name on the ballot in the coming election.

The petition campaign got off to a flying start three weeks ago and continued at a rapid pace. Members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party gave wholehearted and energetic support to the campaign. They found a warm reception among the Negro workers in the 23rd Senatorial District who are anxious to elect a Negro worker to the State Senate.

All branches of the New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party will cooperate with the Harlem branch in conducting a vigorous campaign for the election of Williams in the fall election.

"We are confident that a large number of the workers in the district will cast their votes for our candidate," declared John Andrews, organizer of the Harlem branch of the SWP as the petition campaign ended.

Robert Williams and other members of the Socialist Workers Party will be heard at open air and indoor meetings during the election campaign. Workers who are interested in securing campaign literature for themselves and their friends can obtain it at the headquarters of the New York Local of the SWP, 116 University Place and at the Harlem branch headquarters, 103 W. 110th Street.

R. Williams Flays Jim Crow Ruling

"The decision of Supreme Court Justice Felix Benvenga sanctioning Jim Crow in Metropolitan Life's Stuyvesant Town housing development is worthy of the state of Georgia," Robert Williams, candidate of the S. W. P. for the State Senate declared in a statement today.

"New York judges don't hold honorary memberships in the Ku Klux Klan the way they do in the South," Comrade Williams continued, "but they act under the same motives and are spurred by the same pressures. The savage decision of Judge Benvenga was issued hard on the heels of the resolution adopted by New York's rent-gouging landlords at Saranac Lake demanding an end to anti-discrimination laws barring segregation. Benvenga heard his master's voice.

"These laws remain on the statute books, the Ives Quirin Law still decorate state laws with the noble trappings of racial equality. But one decision of a court turns them all into a hollow mockery. Indeed the laws were written with enough loopholes to make such court decisions possible.

"Meanwhile Metropolitan Life is to receive tax exemption from the city for Stuyvesant Town that totals $50,000,000. Negro workers will be obliged to pay taxes for the right of segregation. It's time that all working class and Negro organizations in this city started an action which would force the passage of a law making such discrimination impossible."

Federal Withholding Tax A Racket For The Bosses

Federal withholding taxes collected by the bosses from the workers are providing U. S. employers with $10 billion of interest-free short-term working capital annually and have laid the basis for a wide-spread tax-juggling racket.

Since employers are required to turn these payroll taxes over to the government only every three months, they are "borrowing" these funds for the three-month period and longer. It's a way to get interest-free capital to finance their business inventories and other operating expenses.

This racket has been going on since the withholding tax law was signed by Roosevelt in 1943. But the government has taken an interest in it only recently when certain shaky companies could not pay the government its tax-cut after they sank the tax money in their own businesses.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue of the U. S. Treasury Department, reports the July 23 **Wall Street Journal,** is threatening to "crack down" on this racket with criminal prosecutions. So far it has brought civil suit in connection with only two cases, one involving a delinquent Washington night club operator and the other a North Carolina textile mill.

Both of these cases were civil tax lien actions; but there have been no prosecutions for fraud.

Cases of inability to pay the tax funds because the business is "caught short" are on the increase, the Internal Revenue Bureau complains.

Aside from the fact that the workers are being docked billions annually that are being used illicitly for the profits of the bosses, there is a direct threat that workers may be compelled to pay the tax twice.

If an employer claims he did not collect the tax from an individual worker, and his records do not show such collection, it may prove impossible for the employe to prove he paid the tax and "occasionally an employe may have to pay his tax twice," says the **Wall Street Journal.**

Since 1943, the employers have collected some $38 billion of taxes from pay envelopes. They have retained these sums in their private bank accounts for anywhere from one to three months, and in a number of instances longer.

Their racket must be broken by ending their career as private tax collectors. This means ending the infamous payroll withholding tax.

Hickman Defense Committee Formed

CHICAGO, July 30 — A West Side Hickman Defense Committee was organized last night to defend James Hickman who shot his landlord in the justifiable belief that he was responsible for the death of his four children. (See story on Page 5).

Among the organizations represented on the Committee are the Chicago Tenants Union, West Side Youth Council of the NAACP, National Citizens Congress, West Side branch of the Socialist Workers Party. Leaders of the West Side Civic League indicated support from their organization. West Side ministers present at the meeting and pledging support, were Rev. V. B. Watts of the Progressive Baptist Church, Rev. Charles Pumphrey and Rev. Bryon.

A mass meeting has been called for Friday, Aug. 15 at the Zion Hill Baptist Church, Ashland and Hastings. Collection lists to secure defense funds are being circulated by the Committee.

Plans are under way for the formation of a city wide Hickman Defense Committee. Prominent community leaders who have agreed to serve on the Hickman Defense Committee include Irene McCoy Gaines, president of the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations; Rev. Joseph M. Evans, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church; Earle Sardon, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Relations League; Willoughby Abner, vice president of the CIO Chicago Industrial Union Council; Henry McGee, president of the Chicago branch of the NAACP; Gerald Bullock, chairman of the Committee of Racial Equality; Alice Merritt, corresponding secretary of the Congress of Racial Equality; Michael Bartell, Chicago organizer, Socialist Workers Party, and Richard Stamz of the Englewood Citizens Protective League.

NAACP and CIO Council in Chicago Fight Rent Hike

CHICAGO, July 30 — The drive of profit hungry landlords to coerce tenants into signing leases with a 15% increase has aggravated the plight of Negro families in this city. Immediate action to relieve the already acute housing shortage was demanded by Henry McGee, president of the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter to Gov. Dwight Green, the Chicago Branch of the NAACP called for Negro representation on all local advisory boards in rent control areas.

The letter pointed out that since most of the Negro families were low-income tenants whose "rents were inflated even prior to today's general housing shortage . . . these factors make the need for careful study of the impact of rent control actions obvious." Persons qualified to present these views should be named to the boards, the NAACP concluded.

The Chicago Industrial Union Council, CIO, urged tenants to refuse to pay 15% rent increases. They authorized a house-to-house campaign against higher rents and went on record in favor of freezing present rents. The Council delegates voted to insist upon the appointments of labor representatives to rent and advisory commissions.

In the opinion of the Council a general 15% increase is unwarranted. The tenants have actually been paying hidden rent increases "because they have been forced to supply cleaning, repairing and other services or else go without them."

Chicago Comrades Hold Last Rites For Homer Lewis

Two hundred comrades and friends of Homer Lewis crowded into a hall draped with red banners to pay their last respects to Homer Lewis, their departed comrade.

Mike Bartell, Organizer of the Chicago SWP, Ruth Steel of the Committee of Racial Equality and Gerald Bullock, Chairman of the Committee and an official of the Peoples' Consumers Cooperative, spoke in honor of his memory.

The Reverend Archibald Carey, Minister of the Woodlawn AME Church and Third Ward Alderman, officiated at the services.

Both the Negro and daily press took prominent notice of Homer Lewis' passing and his activities.